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THE EDWARDS LIMESTONE IN THE BALCONES FAULT
ZONE, SOUTH-CENTRAL TEXAS.

The University of Texas at Austin, Ph.D., 1973
Geology

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UMI

THE EDWARDS LIMESTONE IN THE BALCONES FAULT ZONE,
SOUTH-CENTRAL TEXAS

by

PATRICK LEON ABBOTT, B.S., M.A.

DISSERTATION

Presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School of

The University of Texas at Austin

in Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements

for the Degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

August, 1973

THE EDWARDS LIMESTONE IN THE BALCONES FAULT ZONE,
SOUTH-CENTRAL TEXAS

APPROVED BY SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE:

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L. J. ...
Robert W. McClay

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When you have eliminated all which is impossible,
then whatever remains, however improbable,
must be the truth.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
in "The Complete Sherlock Holmes"

You might compare climbing El Capitan with writing a
Ph.D. dissertation. It's essentially meaningless.

Dean Caldwell (1st man to climb sheer face
of El Capitan in Yosemite)
in "Sports Illustrated" May 3, 1971

Most men will not swim before they are able to. Novalis
(nom de plume for Friedrich von Hardenberg,
student of Werner at Freiberg)
Naturally they won't swim! They are born for the solid
earth, not for the water. And naturally they won't
think. They are made for life, not for thought.
Yes, and he who thinks, what's more, he who makes
thought his business, he may go far in it, but he
has bartered the solid earth for the water all the
same, and one day he will drown.

Herman Hesse
in "Steppenwolf"

Acknowledgements

Sincere appreciation is extended to Professor Keith Young for suggesting and supervising the problem and critically reviewing the manuscript.

I am also indebted to my permanent committee members, Dr. William L. Fisher and Dr. L. Jan Turk, for their helpful suggestions and criticisms.

Thanks should also go to my committee member from San Antonio, Robert Maclay of the United States Geological Survey for the valuable time he spent reviewing this work.

An early edition of this manuscript received the attention of student editor Steve Shaw.

Financial support was received through the University of Texas geology department in the form of the 1970-71 Pan American Petroleum Company Faculty Doctoral Fellowship and a 1971 Amoco Production Company summer fellowship.

I should also recognize the conversations with former faculty member Dr. Peter U. Rodda and fellow graduate students Charles Marsh Woodruff Jr., George Lyman Dawe and Richard Morgan Cadwgan.

Certain aspects of the problem were individually discussed with Joe Pearson, Ted Small, Dick Reeves and Paul Rettman in the San Antonio office of the U. S. Geological Survey.

Lastly, thanks should go to Servtex Materials Co., U. S. Gypsum Co., and numerous ranchers for allowing me access to their property.

The dissertation was submitted to the committee in April, 1973.

THE EDWARDS LIMESTONE IN THE BALCONES FAULT ZONE,
SOUTH-CENTRAL TEXAS

Publication No. _____

Patrick Leon Abbott, Ph.D.
The University of Texas at Austin, 1973

Supervising Professor: Keith Young

The Edwards Limestone (Albian) is a mosaic of shallow water, back-reef, carbonate lithofacies averaging about 450 feet thick, that have been dolomitized, chertified and dedolomitized.

Intermittent subaerial exposure during and shortly after deposition of the Edwards resulted in secondary solution-enlargement of some primary voids. Slow upwarping of the northwestern margin of the subsiding Gulf of Mexico basin elevated the Edwards Group above sea level late in the Cretaceous. Down-to-the-coast, en echelon, normal faulting along the Balcones system during the Early Miocene accentuated the topographic position of the Edwards above sea level. Rejuvenated Gulfward flowing streams cut into the upthrown fault block and exposed the top of the Edwards Limestone in deep canyon bottoms. This created discharge sites that initiated a continuously circulating ground-water system in the Edwards Limestone. Early porosity systems have increased in size through the self-ramifying cavern solution process that occurs in carbonate rocks. The resultant cavern system presently supplies water for

most of south-central Texas.

Some faults have acted as barriers which have caused a preferential channelization of ground-water flow into separate but parallel systems. Ground water moving toward low discharge points, e.g. Comal Springs, has created widespread cavern systems.

Removal of much Upper Cretaceous overburden during the Neogene and declines of the water table due to stream incision have changed the Edwards Group in the eastern Edwards plateau into a lower yield unconfined aquifer. The prolific artesian aquifer system beneath the western margin of the Gulf Coastal plain is still increasing in size.

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INTRODUCTION

The Edwards Limestone of south-central Texas is a cavernous container holding tremendous quantities of fresh water. There are a number of only partially answered questions about this aquifer system, e.g.

How was the porosity created?

How was the sequential development of porosity related to the geologic history of the region?

What is the relationship between porosity and different facies within the Edwards?

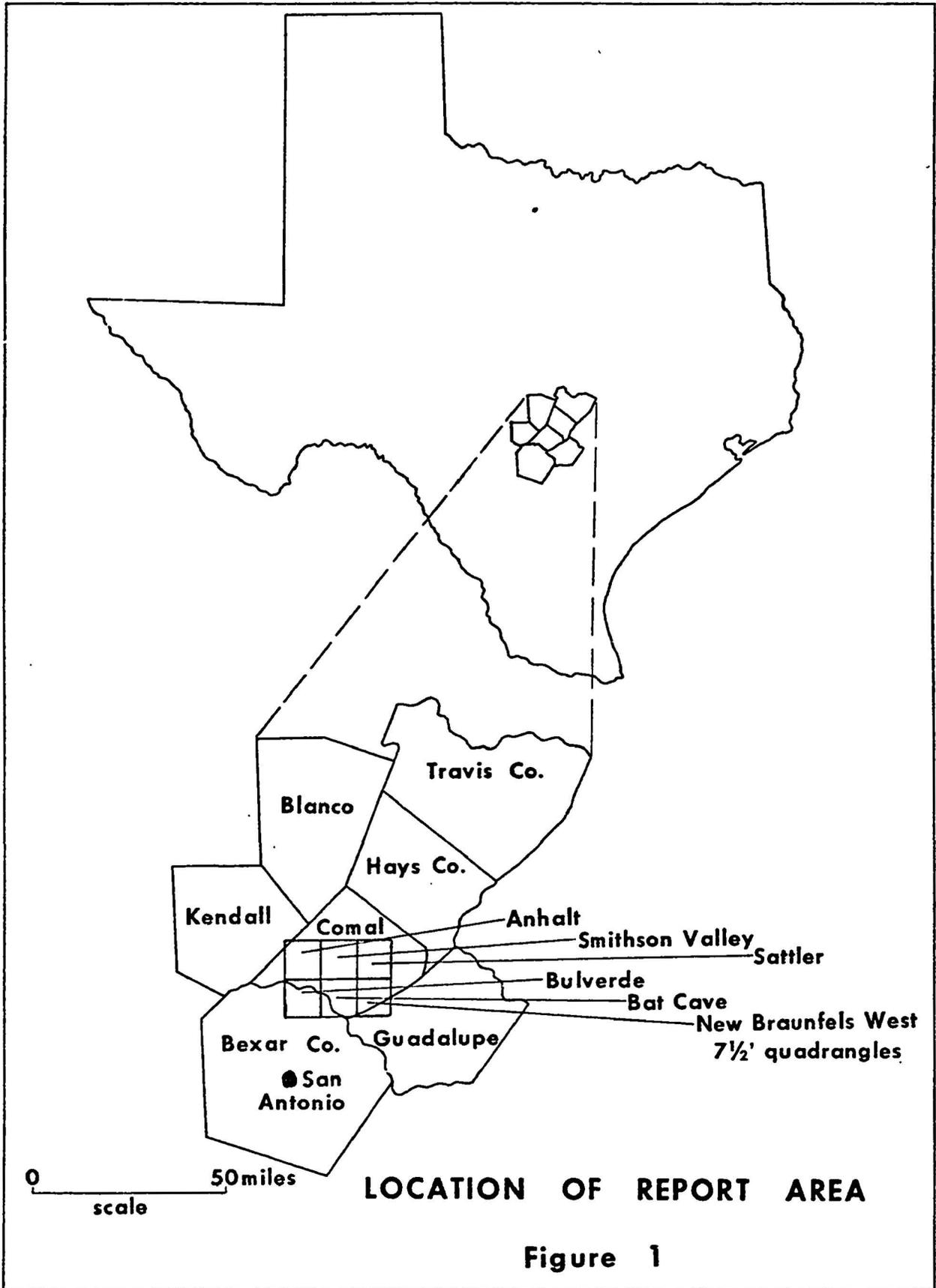
Improved answers to these questions have been sought by looking closely at some of the Edwards Limestone exposed in the Balcones fault zone.

Area investigated

Geology was mapped on the Sattler, New Braunfels West, Smithson Valley, and Bulverde 7.5 minute quadrangles in Comal and Bexar Counties (see figure 1 and/or map packet inside rear cover). Measured sections were described on the outcrop in Travis, Blanco, Kendall, Comal and Bexar Counties (see individual measured sections in appendix for precise locations). Cores from Comal and Bexar Counties were described (see appendix).

Methods

The terminology used to describe these carbonate rocks lithologically is from the classifications of Folk (1962) and Dunham (1962). The spectral subdivision of Folk allows more specific descriptions, especially where differing energy regimes have acted on diverse allochems in the presence of a source of micrite. But usually the grains in the Edwards are skeletal debris with supplemental intraclasts, and the extensive



dolomitization and recrystallization commonly make micrite versus spar evaluations conjectural. Whereas Folk's system incorporates micrite or spar into the name, it is less equivocal to use Dunham terms like grainstone.

The porosity classification used is that of Choquette and Pray (1970) because their carbonate pore types are related to carbonate rock genesis.

The spurious accuracy of measuring sections to tenths or hundredths of a foot is illustrated in "synclinal" roadcuts. Thin marly beds in the heart or central freshest part of a roadcut thicken markedly toward the natural hillslopes due to expansion involved in calichification. A one inch thick "fresh" marl bed may increase to one foot near the weathering surface. The ramifications of this observation, as well as the facies concept, should be considered when selecting the precision with which one is going to measure sections.

Stereo pairs of low altitude aerial photographs were obtained from Edgar Tobin Aerial Surveys in San Antonio. The location of faults and the distribution of stratigraphic units were delimited as well as possible by studying the photos in the office. These interpretations were plotted on U. S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute topographic maps. Confusing or equivocal areas were walked out in the field during the summers of 1971 and 1972.

Previous investigations

This area has been visited by geologists and engineers in the past; many of whom have contributed important ideas. A chronologic list of these investigations is given in Table 1.

TABLE 1. PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION OF WORK</u>
1846 1848 1849 1852	Ferdinand Römer	Extensive early study of Cretaceous strata and fossils in German-settled central Texas
1898	Robert T. Hill & T. Wayland Vaughan	Geology, geography and occurrence of ground water in eastern Edwards plateau
1924	W.S. Adkins	Georgetown Fm. in McClennan Co. divided into seven members
1925- 1935	F.L. Whitney & students	Geologic mapping in Comal and Hays Co. (edited by Keith Young in 1956 for Bur. Econ. Geology)
1930	Gus K. Eifler	Study of Edwards Limestone in central Texas with emphasis on Travis Co. and paleontology
1930	Stewart W. Horne	Measured sections of Walnut Fm. in Comal Co. and northward
1932	Kenneth S. Cronin	Report on Edwards-Georgetown contact in Comal and Hays Co.
1932	Lon Cartwright Jr.	Topography of pre-Cretaceous surface and regional structure of Edwards plateau
1933	W.S. Adkins	Regional description of Texas Cretaceous
1936	Penn Livingston, <u>et al.</u>	Water resources of the Edwards Limestone in the San Antonio area
1941	William C. Ikins	Stratigraphy and paleontology of Walnut and Comanche Peak Fms. in Hays Co. and northward to Hood Co.
1942	A.N. Sayre & R.R. Bennett	Classic description of the reservoir characteristics of Edwards Limestone in south-central Texas
1944	Virgil E. Barnes	Description of Kirschberg evaporite horizon with Edwards Limestone
1952	William O. George	Geology and ground water of Comal Co.

TABLE 1 (cont'd)

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION OF WORK</u>
1955	Roger Rhoades & William Guyton	Ground-water patterns at Canyon reservoir site, Comal Co.
1956	B.M. Petitt Jr. & W.O. George	Ground-water resources of the San Antonio area
1956	Frank E. Lozo & F.L. Stricklin Jr.	Revision of Trinity stratigraphic relationships with emphasis on the division concept
1956	Kenneth J. DeCook	Geology of San Marcos Springs 5' quad, Hays Co.
1957	Terry V. Bills Jr.	Geology and ground-water occurrence in Waco Springs 5' quad, Comal Co. (map overlaps SE part of Sattler 7.5' quad of this report)
1957	A. Peter Noyes Jr.	Geology of a portion of Hays Co.
1957	Victor L. King Jr.	Geology of Mission Valley 5' quad, Comal Co. (map overlaps part of New Braunfels West 7.5' quad in this study)
1959(a)	Keith Young	Faunal relationships within Edwards rudist-banks
(b)		Eight Washita ammonite zones parallel rock unit boundaries, thin toward San Marcos platform and the four lower zones are sequentially overlapped by each overlying zone as Georgetown thins southward onto the Edwards
1961	Kenneth G. Martin	Stratigraphic relationships of Georgetown, Del Rio, and Buda Fms. in south-central Texas
1961	Clyde H. Moore Jr.	Defined members of Walnut Fm. in south-central Texas
1962	Jan A. Winter	Regional study of subsurface Fredericksburg and Washita facies southwest of San Marcos platform and recognition of Stuart City reef trend
1962	Delos R. Tucker	Regional study of subsurface Fredericksburg and Washita facies northeast of San Marcos platform

TABLE 1 (cont'd)

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION OF WORK</u>
1963	Ted Arnow	Geology and ground water of Bexar Co.
1964	Clyde H. Moore Jr.	Walnut-Comanche Peak facies interpreted from measured sections in south-central Texas
1965	U.S. Army Corps Engrs.	Regional Study of Edwards underground reservoir
1966	Patrick L. Abbott	Subdivision of Glen Rose Fm. in Comal Co.
1966	Peter U. Rodda, Wm. L. Fisher, <u>et al.</u>	Measured sections and chemical analyses of Lower Cretaceous carbonates of Texas
1966	Keith Young	Ammonite zonation of the Fredericksburg Division
1967	Keith Young	Summary of stratigraphic relationships within the Comanche Series, south-central Texas
1967	William L. Fisher & Peter U. Rodda	Regional stratigraphic relationships within the Edwards Fm. with ideas on occurrence of dolomite and chert
1968	Peter R. Rose	Comprehensive surface and subsurface lithofacies analysis of Edwards Fm. in central Texas
1971	John H. Newcomb	Geology and ground water of 7.5' Bat Cave quad, Comal and Bexar Co.
1971	F.L. Stricklin Jr., C.I. Smith, & F.E. Lozo	Stratigraphy of the Trinity Division, central Texas

Eastern Edwards plateau vegetational province

The uplifted Edwards plateau has been strongly dissected by stream erosion yielding a rugged topography provincially referred to as the "hill country". Its three essential physiographic components are: (1) the gently sloping interstream uplands, (2) the steep slopes of the canyon walls, and (3) the stream courses. The limestone terrane of the Edwards plateau is rife with fissures and springs which keep the streams and their alluvial deposits well supplied with water. Tongues of luxuriant forest growth reminiscent of the moister eastern United States invade an otherwise semi-arid environment. Large trees along the well-watered canyons, but not in the uplands, include the baldcypress (Taxodium distichum) and the pecan (Carya illinoensis). Also common are the eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoides), the American sycamore (Platanus occidentalis), the black willow (Salix nigra), the American elm (Ulmus americanus), and several others.

The divides are dominantly limestone that is carried off in solution by carbon dioxide-charged water. The only particulate matter available to form a soil residuum is the minor percent of clay and sand admixed within the limestone. But the steepness of the slopes allows a rapid runoff that usually erodes the clastic material before a mature soil profile can develop. The area is characterized by thin soils mixed with broken rock slabs that rest on hard limestone. The soils fall into similar series such as Valera, Denton and Brackett (Carter, 1931).

The region annually receives about 32 inches of rain but its distribution in time and space is highly irregular. Several years may receive far less than the mean annual rainfall but then one weeks precipitation

may exceed it. The average annual temperature is in the high 60's with winter readings dropping below freezing for short periods and summer values sometimes exceeding 100°. Winds are dominantly from the southeast and evaporation rates are considerably in excess of precipitation.

The eastern Edwards plateau is covered by open grassland, scattered scrub timber, and some timbered country. The timber of the divides is a dry-climate forest picturesquely described by Bray (1904): "The growth is stunted, the wood dense and hard, the branches rigid, the foliage somber, the leaves small and stiff; the climate is written in every feature." The native vegetation is largely short grasses, bunch grasses, abundant junipers, various oaks, mesquite, cacti, and many shrubs. It is predominantly range land and is commonly stocked with combinations of cattle, sheep and goats to make best use of the variety of plants.

The steep limestone slopes and gentler uplands are dominated by a juniper-oak-grass floral association. The most abundant tree is Juniperus ashei. This juniper (known as cedar to "hill country" folk) flourishes in the harsh calcareous soils of central Texas and on similar limestone terranes in southern Oklahoma and southeastern Missouri.

Oaks common to the area include Quercus sinuata (white or shin oak), Q. virginiana (live oak), and Q. shumardii (Texas or Spanish oak). Maps of their areal distribution show roughly similar ranges over large parts of the Atlantic and Gulf coastal plains (Fowells, 1965). The westernmost extent of each is separated by a dashed line essentially delimiting the Balcones fault trace. West of this line these oak species have undergone enough ecotypic differentiation while adjusting to the Edwards plateau that they are further recognized by the respective varieties:

breviloba, fusiformis, and texana. The harsh soils derived from the limestone terrane and the spasmodic rainfall have caused habitat-correlated variation within each species that has created genetically fixed ecotypes. These varieties are also found in southwest Oklahoma and on the east face of the Sierra Madre Oriental.

The most characteristic tree on clay outcrops in the eastern Edwards plateau is the mesquite (Prosopis glandulosa var. glandulosa) which ranges from Mexico to Oklahoma.

Brief observations on stratigraphic control of larger plants are:

Del Rio -----	abundant mesquite
Edwards limestone -----	abundant juniper-oak with increased prickly pear cactus (<u>Opuntia lindheimeri</u>)
Edwards terra rosa -----	numerous mesquite; in southern part of Bulverde quad this habitat increasingly occupied by acacia
Walnut-uppermost 12 to 22 feet of Glen Rose -----	dense juniper band but with numerous oaks and other more desirable trees giving a distinct light green tonal band
Glen Rose upper dolomite (120 feet thick) -----	largely barren

REGIONAL GEOLOGIC FRAMEWORK

Structural elements

The Texas craton is a salient of Precambrian basement rocks trending north and west from central Texas that yield radiometric dates hovering about one billion years (Flawn, 1956). The Llano uplift exposes Precambrian granites and metasedimentary rocks of the Texas craton along with arched and faulted Paleozoic rocks. The Llano area yielded terrigenous sediment for Trinity rocks but was progressively buried by Fredericksburg deposition.

The largely concealed Ouachita system is a belt of deformed Paleozoic rocks bordering the southern edge of the cratonic interior of North America analogous to the Appalachian system bordering the eastern edge. The Balcones fault system region of central Texas is underlain primarily by the frontal zone of slightly metamorphosed to unmetamorphosed folded and thrust-faulted rocks reminiscent of the Appalachian Valley and Ridge province. The Ouachita facies are comprised essentially of relatively thin Lower Paleozoic siliceous and dark argillaceous rocks and thick Upper Paleozoic coarse clastic deposits. The bulk of the Ouachita system has been depressed beneath the great sedimentary prisms of the Gulf coastal plain (Flawn, et al., 1961).

Major regional subsidence of the Gulf of Mexico basin occurred during the Late Jurassic and Cretaceous as evidenced by thousands of feet of carbonate rocks in the Yucatan and Florida-Bahama platforms (Murray, 1961). In Texas the basinward tilt of the Gulf's northern flank resulted

in a slow transgression of Cretaceous seas which gradually inundated a former low relief land surface (Young, 1962). The sinking of the basin continued through the Tertiary coupled with upwarping of its northwestern margin.

The homoclinally dipping Cretaceous and Tertiary beds along the northern and western flanks of the Gulf are interrupted by synthetic and antithetic systems of en echelon normal faults. The field area of this report lies within the dominantly synthetic Balcones fault system of en echelon, high angle, down-to-the-coast normal faults (figure 2). This system forms a convex-to-the-coast arc averaging 10 to 12 miles in width and paralleling the trend of the subjacent Ouachita system as it bends around the Texas craton. The stratigraphic displacement across Comal County totals about 1400 feet. Coastward from and parallel to the Balcones system is the primarily antithetic Luling system of up-to-the-coast normal faults whose aggregate displacement is about 450 feet. The synthetic Balcones system and the antithetic Luling system create an intervening graben.

The classic explanation of Balcones faulting utilizes the crustal extension caused by subsidence of the Gulf of Mexico geosyncline and the accompanying uplift of the Edwards plateau (Foley, 1926). The Cretaceous rocks lying on the supporting Llano positive element were subjected to maximum stretching across its stable margin. Release of these tensional stresses created a down-to-the-coast fault system whose trend paralleled the hinge line created by the boundary of the Texas craton.

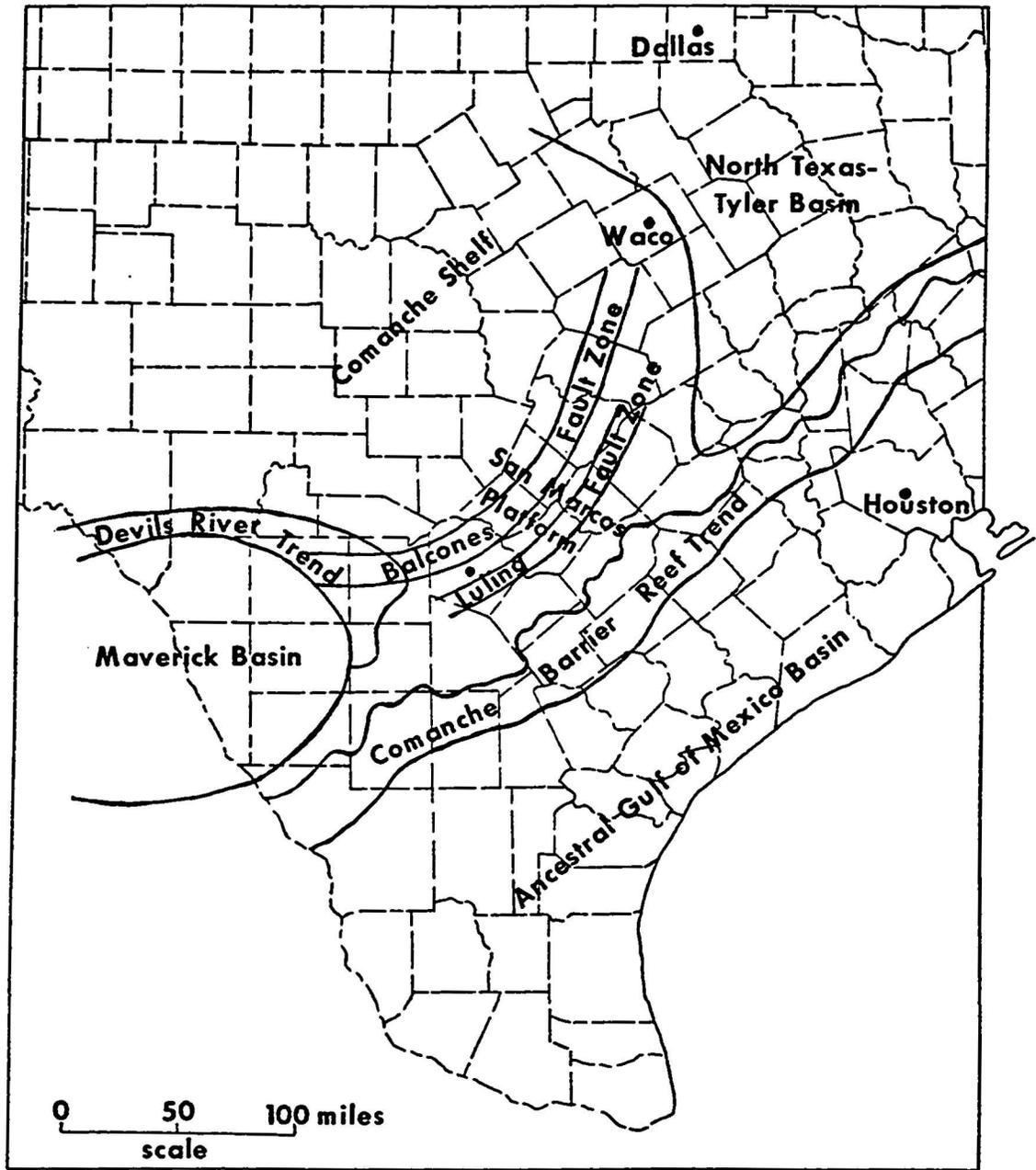
Facies patterns within Comanchean rocks show no effects of Balcones fault movement during their deposition. Thin beds within the Austin

Division and a Baculites zone in the Pecan Gap chalk of the Taylor Division carry across the fault line indicating no displacement up to that time (Keith Young, oral communication, 1971). The first positive evidence of movement on the Balcones fault system is shown by the abundant reworked Upper Cretaceous fossils and limestone fragments in the Early Miocene Oakville Formation (Weeks, 1945). It seems that most Balcones faulting was restricted to the Miocene (Young, 1962).

Depositional elements

During most of the Early Cretaceous a great barrier reef existed on the shelf edge that separated the shallow interior of Texas from the deeper ancestral Gulf of Mexico basin. These linear bioclastic ridges were named the Comanche barrier reefs by Hendricks and Wilson (1967).

Deposition of Lower Cretaceous rocks in central Texas occurred on a broad, essentially flat, usually submerged, back-reef surface designated the Comanche shelf by Rose (1968). The shallow water Comanche shelf was partially bordered by depressions and rises that affected the depositional fabric. The most significant depressions were the North Texas-Tyler basin (Fisher and Rodda, 1967) to the northeast and the Maverick basin (Winter, 1962) to the southwest. The northern rim of the Maverick basin had a shallow-water belt of bioclastic debris known as the Devils River trend. The field area of this report was on the intervening arch known as the San Marcos platform. The position of this area of lesser subsidence than the basins to the northeast and the southwest was probably largely controlled by the subjacent Texas craton. The location of the crest of the San Marcos platform is inferred from the erosion of the upper Person and the thinning of the Georgetown, Del Rio, Eagle Ford, and Austin Formations.



REGIONAL GEOLOGIC FRAMEWORK

Figure 2

EDWARDS LIMESTONE AQUIFER

The Edwards Limestone forms two distinct and separate groundwater reservoirs in south-central Texas. There is an unconfined aquifer over about 6,400 square miles of Edwards Limestone outcrop on the Edwards plateau and a confined aquifer beneath the western margin of the Gulf coastal plain.

Rainfalls on the Edwards plateau that exceed one inch in 24 hours are generally of sufficient volume to saturate the soil and cause sheetwash. This surface runoff allows some of the water to find sinkholes and solution-enlarged joints and go underground (Sayre and Bennett, 1942). Ground water within the unconfined aquifer moves to the south and southeast through beds that generally dip about 20 feet per mile to the southeast. Water wells on the Edwards plateau yield sufficient supplies from the thin zone of saturation for domestic, stock, and limited agricultural purposes in this sparsely settled ranch land.

In a sense, the principal function of the Edwards plateau is that of a catchment area readying water for recharge into the Edwards confined aquifer. The water in the unconfined aquifer reappears as springflow in stream valleys cut into and through the Edwards Limestone. The spring-fed baseflow of several creeks and rivers, sporadically augmented by surface runoff, moves across the Glen Rose outcrop for some distance and then largely goes underground where it crosses the fractured and cavernous limestones in the Balcones fault zone, especially in Uvalde and Medina Counties.

The artesian aquifer is a 250 mile long and 5 to 40 mile wide belt of highly fractured Edwards Limestone that has been enlarged by solution gulward of the main Balcones fault-line scarp. The aquifer is confined below the western edge of the Gulf coastal plain and Blackland prairie and extends southwest from Austin through San Marcos, New Braunfels, and San Antonio and then swings west across the Devils River to Comstock in Val Verde County. The segment of most interest is the 175 mile stretch between the ground-water divides at Kyle in Hays County and Brackettville in Kinney County.

The southern and southeastern boundaries of the artesian aquifer are a marked and mappable "bad water" line where dips steepen to about 100 feet per mile and total dissolved solids increase from 250 to 450 mg/l to around 1,000 mg/l; the latter including hydrogen sulfide (Sayre and Bennett, 1942). No springs discharge south and east of this line and well yields are considerably less. Apparently the only natural discharge from this region is from slow upward leakage (Robert W. Maclay, personal communication, 1973). These data suggest an area of lesser permeability development in the Edwards Limestone due to bypassing of most water through the more permeable Balcones fault zone which acts as a regional master conduit.

A deviation from classical ground-water movement theory was noted in this region by Sayre and Bennett in 1942. The generalized contours on the potentiometric surface of the Edwards Limestone artesian reservoir in Kinney, Uvalde, Medina, Bexar, and part of Comal Counties are generally parallel to the strike of the beds, i.e. east and northeast. Thus, ground water would be expected to move south and southeast across the "bad water"

line but it obviously does not. Measurements of recharge and discharge show excessive recharge in Uvalde and Medina Counties coupled with excessive discharge in Comal County. Hence, large quantities of water apparently move through pipes created by dissolution of carbonate rock sub-parallel to the northeast-trending faults and at an acute angle to regional potentiometric surface contours. However there is no doubt that if sufficient water level data were available to map the potentiometric surface, the flow lines would trend northeastward and would be at right angles to the potentiometric contours.

after Sayre and Bennett (1942)

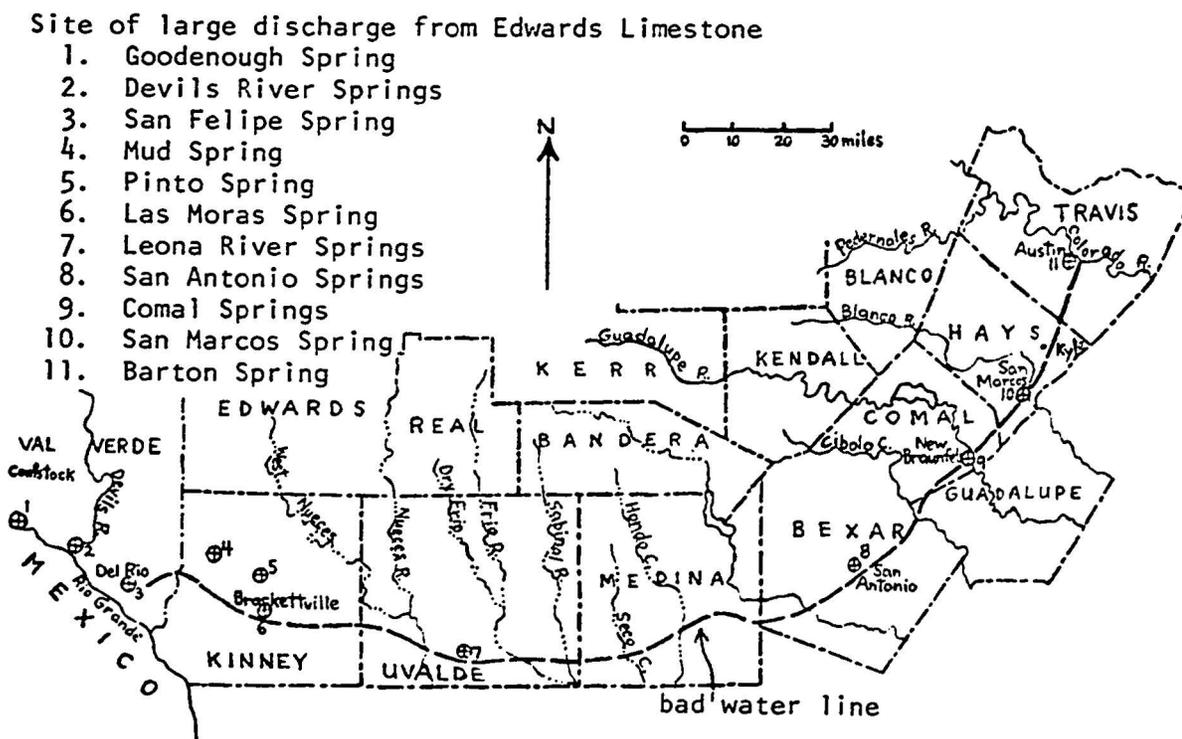


Figure 3 LARGE SPRINGS AND BAD WATER LINE IN EDWARDS LIMESTONE

The 175 mile long segment of the Edwards underground reservoir supplies the water for more than 900,000 people. This includes the domestic and industrial needs of the city of San Antonio, other towns, agricultural irrigation, four U. S. Air Force bases, and the U. S. Army's Fort Sam Houston. Water discharges from thousands of wells and numerous springs including several of the largest in the United States.

Ironically, though urbanization, industrialization, and agricultural irrigation grow rapidly and without limits, the total storage capacity of the artesian resevoir they all depend upon is unknown.

STRATIGRAPHY

The stratigraphy of central Texas has been studied since the days of Römer (1846) and Shumard (1860). The history of the stratigraphic nomenclature is given in Table 2.

Glen Rose Formation

Lithology. The Glen Rose Formation in this report area is comprised of roughly 700 feet of alternating marls, fossiliferous limestones, and dolomites with some coral or rudist reefs and evaporite horizons. The Glen Rose has long been separated into upper and lower members by the "Corbula bed", an intraclastic biosparite with profuse Corbulae herveyi Hill. The bed is 1-2 feet thick and covers several thousand square miles.

The sequence has been further subdivided by Abbott (1966), Stricklin, Smith, and Lozo (1971), and by Lyman Dawe (U. Texas Ph.D. dissertation in progress). A generalized section compiled from the above workers and the present study is:

Walnut Fm. - Pseudosparites, sandy intraclastic biosparites, and Exogyra texana marls.

Glen Rose Fm. -

Subdivision L - (12-22 feet) - Grunge zone. Usually a steep, covered, recessive slope beneath resistant Walnut pseudosparites. Densely populated with junipers, scrub live oak, Spanish oak, hackberry, Mexican persimmon, et al. Rare exposures show plastic clays, boxworks after evaporites, calcite crystal geodes, carbonate concretionary bodies, punky dolomite, and honey-combed beds. Presumably an evaporite-condensation horizon.

Subdivision K - (120 feet) - Upper dolomite. Abundant replacement dolomite and dolomitized intraclastic miliolid biomicrite. Common lithology is leached-looking dolomite with moldic porosity after fossil fragments and miliolids. Distinctive outcrop-- whitish slope barren of vegetation with some resistant dolomite ledges sticking out.

- Subdivision J - (90 feet) - Steinkern marls. Whole mollusc-echinoid marls with miliolid biomicrites and dolomites. Numerous beds contain rudaceous snails, clams and sea urchins along with oysters and miliolids. Few small Monopleura patch reefs. Several layers are dolomitized.
- Subdivision I - (30 feet) - Clayey dolomite with dolomitized biomicrite and marl. A couple of intraclastic biosparites.
- Subdivision H - (45 feet) - Intraclastic miliolid biomicrite and poorly washed biosparites with interbedded marls and superficial oosparites.
- Subdivision G - (85 feet) - Orbitolina texana biomicrite and marl with a several feet thick, resistant caprinid biolithite ledge about 1/3 of the way up into the subdivision. The biolithite is apparently an aquifer in some places.
- Subdivision F - (50 feet) - Dolomites, dolomitized biomicrites and marls. Upper part is clayey flagstone.
- Subdivision E - (55 feet) - Lower part is flaggy beds of clayey-sandy micrite, dolomite, and boxworks after evaporite beds. In upper part conditions were more normal marine as shown by small Monopleura patch reefs, an oyster bank, Orbitolina texana marl, and other marls. Uppermost unit is the richly fossiliferous Salenia texana marl which is capped by the "Corbula bed". The profusion of "Corbula" steinkerns indicates a return toward hypersalinity that is reflected in the superjacent subdivision.
- Subdivision D - (20 feet) - Caprinid biolithite with associated talus. Toucasia and Monopleura become common near the top. This unit apparently is an aquifer in some areas.
- Subdivision C - (25-50 feet) - Orbitolina texana marl with lignitic plant fragments.
- Subdivision B - (60 feet) - Sparse biomicrite with subdued alternating bed topography. Fauna is diverse but sparse and largely fragmented. Some beds are intraclastic. Upper 15-30 feet sometimes has distinctive white chalky appearance.
- Subdivision A - (100 feet) - Oolitic intraclastic biopelsparite--largely made up of shell banks with pellets and intraclasts; also rudist and coral biostromes and dunes of superficial oolites. Diverse fauna of clams, snails, rudists, oysters, echinoids, Orbitolina, coral, serpulids, bryozoa, ostracods, et al. Differential solution of various allochems typically produces a honeycomb porosity system. Springs issue from throughout this subdivision and commonly along the solution-

enlarged bedding contact with the lesser permeable, subjacent Hensel Formation.

Hensel Fm. - Sandy dolomites above glauconitic, sandy recrystallization limestone.

Aquifer characteristics. The Glen Rose Formation generally exhibits low permeability and its relatively small amount of confined ground water is available to wells from distinct lateral zones; vertical movement is slight (Rhoades and Guyton, 1955). Unlike the essentially pure carbonate rocks of the Edwards, most of the Glen Rose is characterized by a number of intercalated marls (alternating beds). These ubiquitous aquitards have been inimical to overall aquifer development.

The Glen Rose horizons that commonly yield water are the honey-combed shellbank in the lower half of subdivision A, the caprinid biolithites making up subdivision D and a small part of G, and the upper dolomite (subdivision K) near the eastern edge of the Edwards plateau. It is frequently necessary for well bores to penetrate through the upper Glen Rose and into the lower beds in order to secure a total yield of several gallons per minute. Commonly, wells drilled through such a section have yields insufficient even for household and livestock watering purposes. Numerous wells produce low quality water high in total dissolved solids. This indicates sluggish water movement through low permeability rocks.

The best aquifer in the Glen Rose is the massive, basal honey-combed shell mounds, from which emerge some of the larger springs in Comal County (e.g. Spring Branch, Honey Creek, Cranes Mill, and Devils Hollow). Century and Cascade Caverns in Kendall County are developed in this interval.

The base of Canyon dam sits on the lower Glen Rose (subdivision E)

and it apparently has been sealed almost tight by grouting. The Estrelita ranch (first spread completely east of the Guadalupe river on FM 306, Sattler quadrangle) reports that five of their six wells went completely dry in 1966, two years after completion of the dam. Only a well yielding water high in sulfates continues to produce at all. Grouting effective enough to seal off all recharge from wells placed through the river floodplain just 2.5 miles downstream from a major reservoir could only take place in rocks of very slight permeability.

Many small springs, essentially seep springs, issue from the upper Glen Rose even during dry periods. However these largely reflect local perched water bodies in rocks of low permeability. The maximum yield for most water wells in the upper Glen Rose is probably less than three gallons per minute (George, 1952).

In total, the Glen Rose Formation above its basal 50 feet is best described as a low permeability rock body with a few low productivity aquifers that are poorly connected vertically. However there are some notable exceptions to this generalization near the eastern edge of the Edwards plateau. Both Natural Bridge Caverns and Bracken Bat Cave are developed largely within the upper dolomite (subdivision K) of the Glen Rose (figures 7 and 8) in direct association with the Bat Cave fault. Typical yields from the upper dolomite in this area are commonly 20 to 30 gpm versus the ordinary 0 to 3 gpm (Newcomb, 1971).

Although the Glen Rose Formation ordinarily makes a tight bed for streams to flow across a significant cavern system has developed beneath Cibolo Creek.

TABLE 2. ORIGIN OF STRATIGRAPHIC NOMENCLATURE

- COMANCHE SERIES: Used as a provincial time-rock term for the Lower Cretaceous by Hill (1887a) who first studied the interval around the town of Comanche, Texas, in a region formerly inhabited by the Comanche Indians. Hill (1887, 1889) thought the Series represented essentially unbroken sedimentation in three lithologically and paleontologically distinct Divisions.
- WASHITA DIVISION: Name first applied by Shumard (1860) to beds underlying the "Exogyra arietina" marl (i.e. Georgetown Fm.) near old Fort Washita, Oklahoma. Hill (1887a) borrowed the term for the upper Division of his Comanche Series.
- Del Rio Clay: Appellation derived by Hill & Vaughan (1898) from town of Del Rio in Val Verde Co., Texas, for the southern extension of the Grayson Marl of North Texas.
- Georgetown Limestone: Initial label by Vaughan (1900) at Hill's suggestion. Hill (1901) used the name for the limestone-marl sequence between the Edwards and Del Rio exposed along the San Gabriel River near Georgetown in Williamson Co., Texas.
- Kiamichi Fm.: Originally called Kiamitia clays by Hill (1891) for outcrops in the Kiamichi River plain near Fort Towson, Choctaw Co., Oklahoma.
- FREDERICKSBURG DIVISION: Hill (1887a) correlated rocks in the Fort Worth area with Roemer's Fredericksburg sections then drew his name from the Gillespie Co. city. Hill's definition of this Division changed repeatedly but stabilized in its present form in a 1937 paper.
- Edwards Fm.: Originally called Caprina limestone by Shumard (1860), then Barton Creek limestone by Hill (1889), and finally acquired its present name from the Edwards plateau (Hill & Vaughan, 1898). Adkins (1933) placed the type section on Barton Creek in Austin, Texas. Rose (1968, 1972) has elevated the interval to Edwards Group with Kainer (lower) and Person Fms. including several members. Of particular use is the Regional Dense Mbr. (lowermost) of the Person Fm.
- Comanche Peak Fm.: Shumard (1860) derived the name from an Indian Landmark in Hood Co., Texas.
- Walnut Fm.: Hill (1891) applied this label to occurrences around Walnut Springs in Bosque Co., Texas. The lower limestone and lower marl units were respectively designated the Bull Creek and Bee Cave Members by Moore (1961).
- TRINITY DIVISION: Appellation taken from the Trinity River valley in north-central Texas by Hill (1889) to describe the lowest subcycle of the Comanche Series.
- Glen Rose Fm.: Sequence entitled Caprotina limestone by Shumard (1860), called "alternating beds" by Hill (1889), and designated Glen Rose Fm. by Hill (1891) after the town along the Paluxy River in Somervell Co., Texas.

Upper contact. The top of the Glen Rose is placed above a 12 to 22 feet thick, steep and recessive covered slope beneath the stripped surface on the resistant pseudosparites of the basal Walnut. Infrequent exposures of this interval show plastic clays, boxworks after evaporites, void fillings of secondary calcite, and punky dolomites that suggest an evaporite interval representing the terminal hypersaline event of the thick upper dolomite subdivision of the Glen Rose. These evaporitic deposits have been leached and now appear as a condensed residue of the above (plate 6A), hereafter referred to as the grunge zone.

The uppermost unit is readily recognized by its steep slope, its place beneath the shallow slope of the Walnut, its position above the un-vegetated upper dolomite of the Glen Rose, and its dense juniper growth.

Walnut Formation

Lithology. At least in the counties of Comal, Bexar, and Blanco the Walnut Formation exists as a mappable, 30 to 50 feet thick rock body of distinctive lithologies, weathering profile, and diagnostic pristine vegetation. These beds are immediately above the thick upper dolomite and grunge zone of the Glen Rose and are below the typical burrow-mottled, dolomitized miliolid-rudist grainstones and wackestones of the lowermost Edwards.

The lower lithologies are mostly pseudosparites and sandy intra-clastic biosparites like the Bull Creek Member of the Walnut Formation in Travis County. The upper beds are mostly sparse Exogyra texana marls with intervening clayey biomicrites strongly reminiscent of the Bee Cave Member of the Walnut Formation (plate 6B). The basal Bull Creek-like lithologies are customarily stripped to form a shallow sloping surface. The average

slope angle increases upwards and is punctuated by even steeper recessive slopes on the marl beds.

The trees growing on the Walnut Formation are more varied than the typical drab green juniper-scrub live oak association ordinarily found on the Glen Rose and Edwards. Numerous Texas oaks, along with the hackberry and other trees, give a distinct light green tonal band to the Walnut outcrop (plate 6C).

The Walnut Formation is usually not used in this area, or else it is treated as an unmappably thin or barely mappable Exogyra texana marl (e.g. George, 1952; Bills, 1957; U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1965; Rose, 1968). In lieu of recognizing the Walnut, The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and some U. S. Geological Survey geologists raise stratigraphically the Glen Rose-Comanche Peak* or Glen Rose-Edwards contact. This places numerous normal marine, or even brackish water, Exogyra texana marls and sandy intraclastic biosparites in with the hypersaline deposits of the upper Glen Rose. This seems unsatisfactory because historically these units have been classified on genetic sedimentary cycles, and the boundary is between hypersaline and brackish with this cycle. The Glen Rose Formation should terminate at the top of the upper dolomite in the subsurface or above the upper dolomite and evaporitic grunge interval in

*Although the term Comanche Peak Formation has not been used in this work there exists a distinctive lithology that differs from typical Comanche Peak but occupies its geometric position between the Walnut and Edwards. It is a dolomitized rudist biolithite and biomicrite with large burrow mottles. Although it can be recognized as a rather distinctive lithology in outcrop and cores it has a gradational upper boundary, nondescript weathering profile, and ordinary juniper-scrub live oak flora that make it unuseful for mapping.

the Balcones fault zone.

Instead of utilizing a Walnut unit, Rose (1968) lowers the Edwards-Glen Rose contact to include all but the lowest E. texana marl into the Edwards. Beds of Walnut Formation lithology lose their identity in the 260 feet thick Dolomitic Member of the Kainer Formation of the sub-surface or are almost identified as the 50 feet thick Basal Nodular Member of the Fort Terrett Formation of the Edwards plateau.

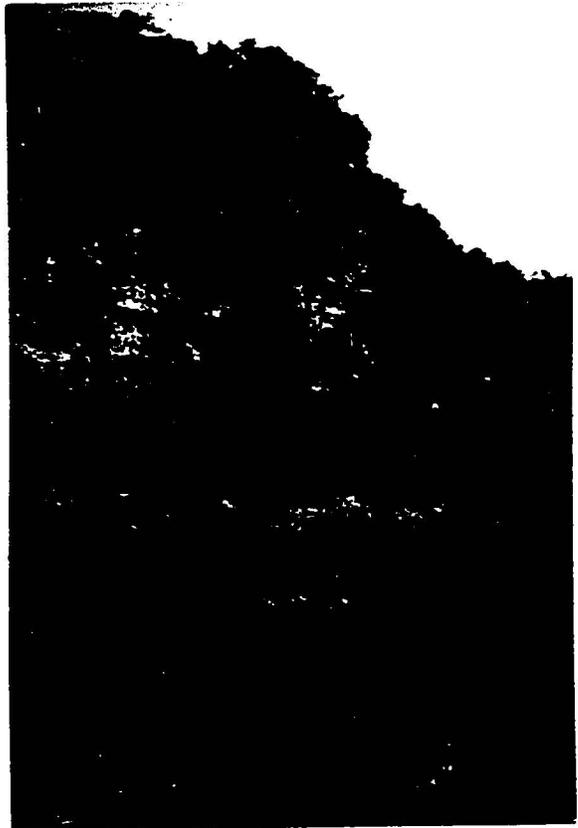
On the Edwards plateau the interval between the Glen Rose upper dolomite and Edwards rudist biolithite and biomicrite is occupied by E. texana marl, silty marl, and calcareous claystone. The Walnut Formation has customarily included much terrigenous detritus which decreases to minor percentages in the Balcones fault zone. However, Rose (1968) places the lower barren marl and claystone of this interval into the Glen Rose and the upper fossiliferous marl into his Basal Nodular Member.

In cores taken from beneath the Gulf coastal plain the Walnut contains easily recognized, diagnostic fossil fragments stained by disseminated, reduced iron (black rotund bodies or BRB's) along with abundant Exogyra texana biomicrite and marl. In fresh cores the upper contact appears gradational. The lower part of the Walnut has a couple of intercalated dolomites but the contact of the lowermost E. texana marl and the thick upper dolomite of the Glen Rose is sharp and distinct.

The roughly 22 feet thick Regional Dense Member makes a valuable map unit that divides the Edwards. Likewise the Walnut Formation is another distinctive marker horizon and map unit throughout the Balcones fault zone region of south-central Texas.

PLATE 6

- A. Finely crystalline, porous (intercrystalline and moldic after fossils), replacement dolomite beds of the Glen Rose Fm. 'upper dolomite' (subdivision K) overlain by the honeycombed, evaporite-condensation, 'grunge zone' (subdivision L). Photographed at the David A. E. Ackermann Ranch along Mud Creek in west-central Bulverde quadrangle.
- B. Stream bed cut through corrosion surface on 'Bull Creek'-like intraclastic biosparite. Pronounced recessive interval is developed on a 'Bee Cave'-like Exogyra texana marl. Main cliff-forming beds are dolomitized caprinid banks and biomicrites of lowermost Edwards Group. Photo taken at mouth of Isaac Creek at 1st crossing of Guadalupe River.
- C. Guadalupe River cutbank exposure of the Glen Rose, Walnut, and Kainer Formations. Photo taken just northeast of center in Sattler quadrangle.
- D. Rudist banks and intraclastic, skeletal debris grainstones of the uppermost Person Fm. blanketed by clayey, sparse biomicrite of the Georgetown Fm. Topographically highest roadcut on Loop 337 South in the New Braunfels West quadrangle.



Porosity characteristics. Void space development in the Walnut Formation is negligible and by and large the unit can be viewed as an aquitard. This is in spite of the occurrence of random large megapore vugs and occasional caverns (e.g. Natural Bridge Caverns and Bat Cave) which pass through it.

The Walnut and Comanche Peak Formations below the Edwards Group and the Georgetown Formation above have been described as the Edwards and associated limestones for hydrologic purposes. This seems rather unnecessary as almost all the significant porosity and permeability is in the Edwards Group proper.

Edwards Group

Lithology. A composite section of the Edwards Limestone on the San Marcos platform is about 400 feet thick. Lithologies are dominantly sparse miliolid-fossil fragment biomicrite and oyster-rudist biolithite with reworked skeletal debris. The beds of Edwards Limestone are relatively pure (i.e. free from terrigenous sediment) calcarenites and calcilutites that have undergone extensive dolomitization, chertification, and recrystallization throughout the section. Original lithologic attributes suggest the dominant depositional environments were supratidal and intertidal flats with subtidal or mini-lagoonal lows around oyster-rudist banks and skeletal grain barriers.

The subsurface Edwards Formation has long been split into Edwards 'A' and 'B' units at a 'kick' in electric log profiles caused by a dense marker bed. This Regional Dense Marker is a clayey biomicrite approximately equivalent to the Kiamichi Formation of North Texas and the Doctor Burt ammonite beds of the Edwards plateau. Rose (1968, 1972) created

regional nomenclatural stratigraphic frameworks within the Edwards Limestone on both sides of the Balcones fault zone. Rose (1972) formalized the traditional subsurface Edwards by raising the interval to an Edwards Group with Kainer (lower) and Person Formations separated at the base of the Regional Dense Member which is the basal unit of the Person Formation (figure 4). This terminology was also suggested for the Edwards Limestone in the Balcones fault zone.

On the Edwards plateau the readily identifiable Doctor Burt ammonite beds were used to split the Edwards Group into Fort Terrett (lower) and Segovia Formations (Rose, 1972). The Fort Terrett was partitioned into members and the Segovia section red-flagged with key beds (figure 4). This terminology was suggested for the Edwards plateau to the west of the Balcones fault zone only. However, the Kirschberg Evaporite Member of the Fort Terrett is recognizable in some measured sections in the Balcones fault zone (e.g. Colorado River bluff and U. S. Gypsum quarry sections in appendix).

Usefulness of Members of Kainer and Person Formations in Balcones fault zone. Recognition on the outcrop of stratigraphic position within the Edwards Limestone is complicated by faulting. In addition, the exposed rocks commonly have been dolomitized, chertified, recrystallized, and dedolomitized with a resultant loss of uniqueness that tends to homogenize the different depositional facies. In the field the Dolomitic Member and lower part of the Grainstone Member of the Kainer Formation plus the Leached, Marine, and Cyclic Members of the Person Formation are unrecognizable by themselves.

The Regional Dense Member separating Kainer from Person

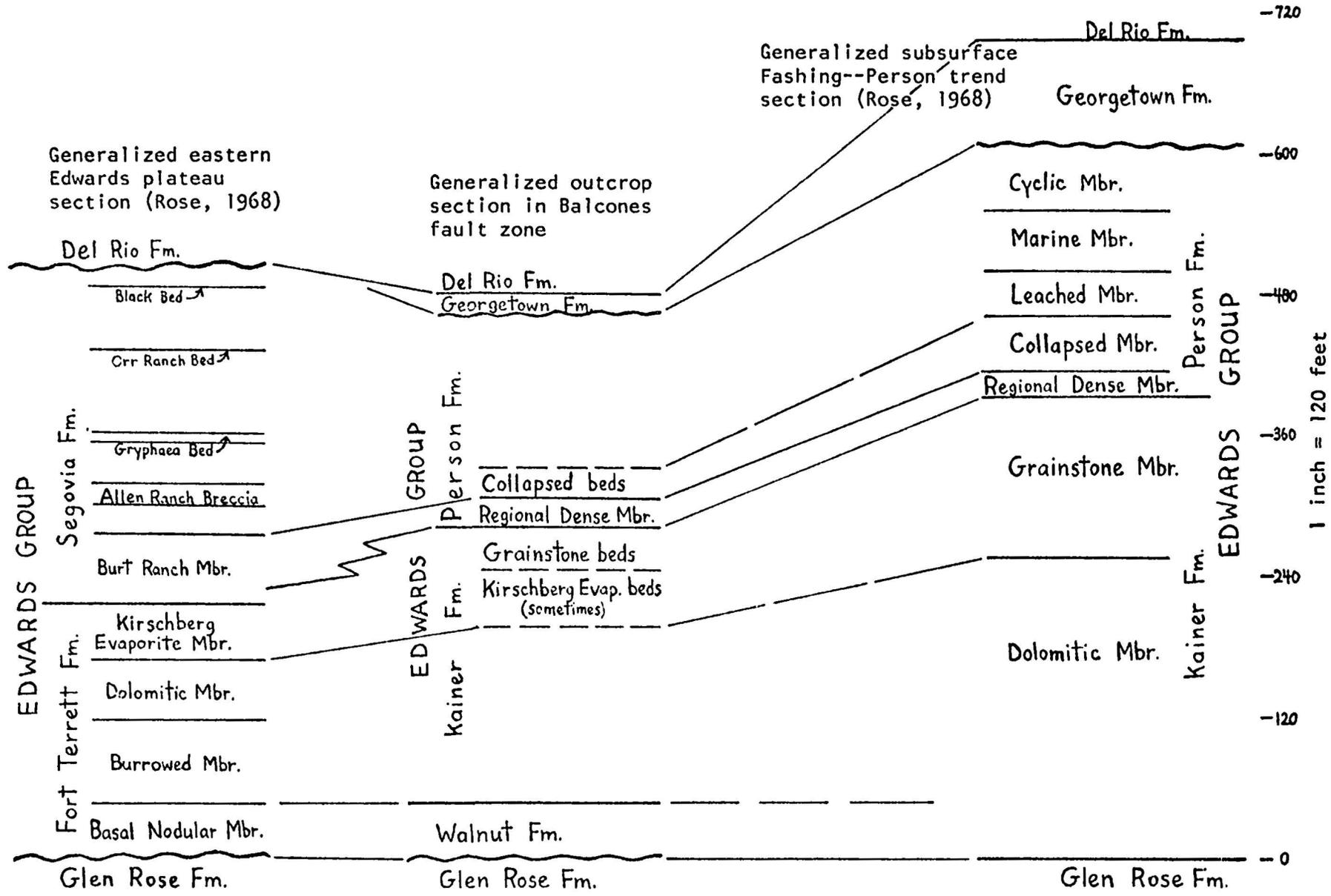


Figure 4 GENERALIZED SECTIONS OF EDWARDS GROUP

is uniformly recognizable. The uppermost 20 to 25 feet of the subjacent Grainstone Member consists largely of diagenetically unaltered, intra-clastic miliolid biosparites that are ordinarily identifiable by themselves but in connection with the Regional Dense Member are unmistakable. The superjacent Collapsed Member is discernible in conjunction with the Regional Dense Member but by itself resembles similar intervals that occur elsewhere in the Edwards. The preceding three units combine to create a distinctive package of rock, about 60 feet thick, somewhat above the middle of the Edwards Group.

Upper contact. The break between the Edwards Group and Georgetown Formation has long been considered unconformable (Adkins, 1933). The Person Formation has been depicted as a wedge thickening off the San Marcos platform. This shape is partly due to erosion attendant with the disconformity during which more than 100 feet of upper Edwards in the sub-surface Fashing-Person trend was removed (Rose, 1968).

The uppermost beds of the Edwards Group at the Loop 337 South section are comprised of Toucasia-caprinid-oyster banks or patch reefs amid reef talus and intraclastic shell mounds with intervening sparse to packed biomicrites and poorly washed biosparites that collected within biolithite frameworks or in topographic lows. The fauna is a diversified mixture of rudists, oysters, clams, snails, miliolids, corals, echinoids, and other skeletal detritus. The uppermost Edwards bed looks like a current-built mound sitting on a flat surface. It is a wedge about three feet high at the crest and tailing off slowly over several tens of feet to one side (plate 6D). The upper surface is an iron-stained, bored corrosion surface with Georgetown lithology filling some boreholes. Some of these

ichnofossils appear to be soft sediment burrows that are filled with Georgetown biomicrite. Blanketing this topography on the Edwards is a nodular, argillaceous, sparse fossil fragment biomicrite of the Georgetown Formation.

The upper 20 feet of Edwards at the Loop 337 South section contains orangish-beige oyster biomicrudites and has a marked decrease in porosity suggesting a gradational change toward deposition of Georgetown lithologies.

The Edwards in the Randolph AFB core is capped by a highly angular and etched surface on a partially recrystallized Toucasia-miliolid limestone. This irregular relief surface is filled by pyritic Georgetown biomicrite. The Edwards is recrystallized and has solution-enlarged porosity whereas the Georgetown is clayey, unrecrystallized, has a diverse and different fauna, and is nonporous. This supports the interpretation of an unconformity.

Georgetown Formation

Lithology. The argillaceous sparse biomicrites of the Georgetown Formation are about 17 feet thick. Lithologies vary from unburrowed, clay-seamed wackestone with diverse and numerous whole molluscs and brachiopods to extensively burrowed oyster-fossil fragment biomicrite. The Georgetown beds are distinctive because of their nodular to marly weathering, pervasive limonite stain, fauna, terrigenous clay content, lack of recrystallization or chertification, and absence of solution-enlarged porosity.

Porosity characteristics. Cores (see appendix) reveal a few scattered vugs but permeability is lacking. The Georgetown can be considered along with the Del Rio Clay as part of the superjacent aquitard sealing

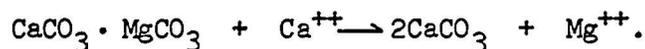
off the Edwards.

Del Rio Formation

Lithology. The only Del Rio Clay in the map area is found within collapse sinkholes. The exposed lithology is a grayish-orange, calcareous claystone or marl with Exogyra arietina shell placers about one foot thick. The Del Rio is recognized by its lithology, color, fossils, mesquite cover, and steep recessive weathering profile.

DEDOLOMITIZATION

Dedolomitization is a process wherein magnesium ions added to aragonite and/or calcite to form dolomite are themselves purged by a later influx of calcium ions. The process is thought to follow the equation originally formulated by von Morlot in 1848 (Evamy, 1967):



The idealized conditions for creation of dedolomite exist where permeable dolomite beds are subjected to continuously circulating, near surface, calcium sulfate-saturated (high Ca/Mg ratio) ground water whose temperature is less than 50° C. and carbon dioxide partial pressure is much less than 0.5 atmosphere (Evamy, 1967; de Groot, 1967).

Dedolomite occurs in carbonate rocks beneath and within collapse breccias that have resulted from solution of underlying evaporite beds. Here, ground water enriched in calcium (i.e. high Ca/Mg ratio) from dissolution of gypsum and/or anhydrite has passed through dolomite and dolomitized limestone beds with a resultant exchange of calcium for magnesium that has converted the dolomite back to calcite.

Dedolomite is a common, though not volumetrically significant, product of surface weathering. Its presence has been suggested as a means of recognizing unconformities in carbonate rock sequences (Chafetz, 1972).

In a study of the Edwards Limestone near Waco, Nelson (1959) recognized "post-lithification calcitic dolomite" or dolomite cemented by secondary calcite. From x-ray diffraction analyses Nelson (1959) concluded that not much dolomite was lost during cementation. However his

report of corroded dolomite crystals and poikilotopic calcite cement in optical continuity with dolomite crystals suggests that limited dedolomitization may have occurred.

Dedolomite may be significantly more common than is generally assumed. For instance, the West Sister Creek section, to the west of the main ground-water aquifer in the Balcones fault zone, and the Randolph AFB core, to the east of the main aquifer across the bad-water line, seem to have significantly more dolomite than the stratigraphically equivalent rocks within the Balcones fault zone. All these rocks formed in similar depositional environments but apparently have varying amounts of dolomite. The significant difference appears to be whether or not they were subjected to large quantities of meteoric ground water. These observations have largely been made with a hand lens and are just speculations. Nevertheless it appears that significant amounts of dedolomite have been formed by the ground water which has moved through the Edwards Group.

CHERT

Occurrence

Chert occurs primarily as granule- to boulder-sized nodules elongate parallel to bedding (plate 7C) but is also present as irregularly shaped nodules, as casts after fossils, and in dense, pervasive fronts. Relict textures commonly display fossils and dolomite rhomb outlines although many chert nodule interiors are relatively featureless.

Outcrop observations indicate an apparent association of chert with the more porous and permeable carbonate beds. Chert nodules are commonly found in grainstones with high energy sedimentary structures and seem much rarer in less permeable biomicrites. Where chert occurs in biomicrites it occasionally appears shaped as if it filled the more permeable burrows (plate 7D).

Dolomites, with their intercrystalline porosity, are common hosts for chert nodule nucleation. The outer perimeter of unweathered chert in dolomite taken from cores is occasionally markedly jagged and irregular.

Chert within the Edwards Group is of secondary origin, is associated with high permeability grainstones, is regionally co-extensive with dolomite formed at lagoon margins, and is absent in reef-core and reef-flank facies (Fisher and Rodda, 1969).

Origin

The origin of chert has not been successfully explained by inorganic solution chemistry although many descriptive data exist. The equilibrium solubility of silica is essentially the same in fresh or sea water

and ranges from about 7 to 14 mg/l for quartz up to 100 to 140 mg/l for amorphous silica. Silica goes into true solution, mostly as silicic acid (H_4SiO_4 ; $K_1 = 10^{-9.9}$), a tetrahedrally coordinated monomer with the ability to polymerize. Solubility increases as temperature rises but is unaffected by pH until it surpasses 9. In the lab, supersaturated H_4SiO_4 solutions do not crystallize but form colloidal particles. Concentrations up to several hundred mg/l silica exist as a stable sol and even higher concentrations are necessary to form gels (Krauskopf, 1956).

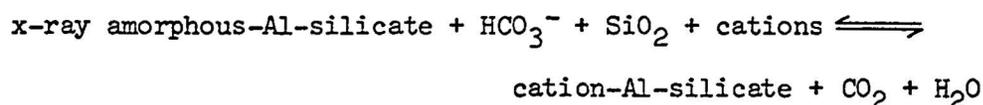
Silica concentrations cluster around 1 to 6 mg/l in oceans, 13 to 14 mg/l in streams, and 15 to 60 mg/l in deep formation waters (Livingstone, 1963; Davis, 1964). A solution must be supersaturated with respect to amorphous silica before inorganic precipitation can occur but the only supersaturated natural waters are some thermal springs and soda lakes.

Most discussions on the origin of chert pinpoint the silica source as being either from volcanic or biogenic materials. Because the silica concentration in sea water is so low many authors believe that a volcanic source is requisite to create chert. However, in the Gulf of California, despite low absolute silica concentrations, upwelling continuously supplies enough silica so that diatom tests are the dominant sediment in some basins (Calvert, 1966). Of course, in a volcanically active region there clearly exists a ready source of amorphous silica that could be transformed into chert during diagenesis. However it is doubtful that the sea water itself becomes so supersaturated that it precipitates silica directly. This is because of the slow reaction rates of silica compared to relatively rapid water mixing, the established observation that diatoms bloom when excess silica is available, the clay buffer system, and zeolite formation

(e.g. phillipsite).

There is no evidence of volcanic detritus in the Edwards Group so the silica source for its chert must be reconstituted biogenic material; most likely, siliceous sponge spicules.

About 90 percent of the excess silica delivered by rivers to the oceans is apparently involved in a reverse weathering process (MacKenzie and Garrels, 1966):



The remaining 10 percent of excess silica is utilized by organisms (diatoms, radiolarians, siliceous sponges, silicoflagellates) that have an ability to extract silica even in very dilute solutions. In life the opaline tissue is protected from dissolution by films of organic matter and adsorbed inorganic cations like Al^{+++} . After death the protective cover of these organisms disappears and silica dissolves. This partly explains why the interstitial water of sea floor sediments has a higher silica concentration than the overlying water body.

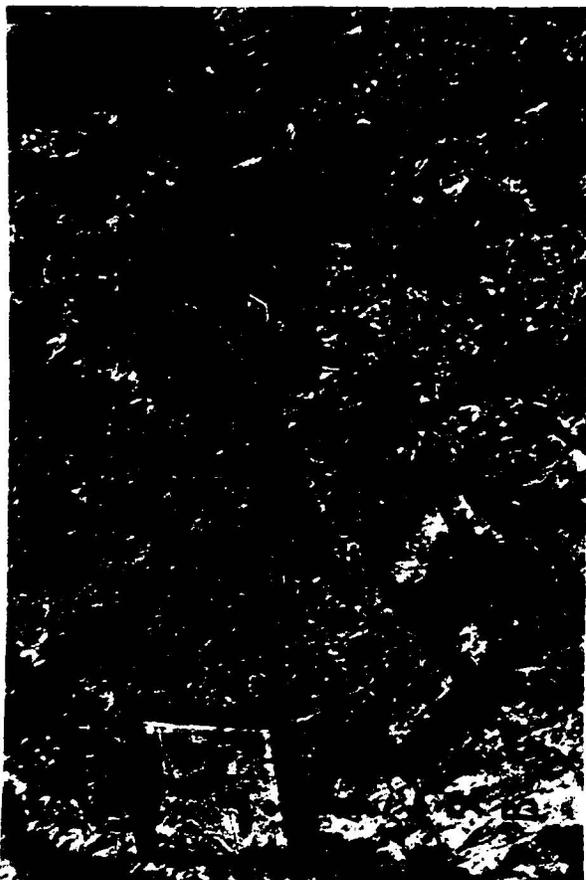
From this point on the work of geochemists and petrographers merges into ill-defined statements about the partial dissolution and redeposition of silica along pH differentials over a small range within microenvironments. For example, during diagenesis, organic matter is bacterially decomposed which raises P_{CO_2} and lowers pH causing solution of carbonate which diffuses away along a concentration gradient. Simultaneously, the solubility of silica may be lowered by adsorption of organic material setting up a diffusion gradient of silica into this same region (Pittman, 1959).

Speculation

It is well known that the Edwards Group is the only cherty rock body in the Cretaceous carbonate sequence of Texas. Hence, some unique aspect or relationship must have existed within the Edwards. The Edwards Group is a carbonate body that is largely devoid of terrigenous detritus including alumino-silicate clay (Rodda, Fisher, et al., 1966). It seems likely that the diagenetic mobilization of biogenic opal into monosilicic acid is a relatively constant and common phenomenon. The mobilized silica ordinarily may be attracted to somewhat degraded clay minerals which it helps reionize or recrystallize. But if the mobilized silica is in a carbonate rock body lacking terrigenous clay nucleation centers then by default the readied silica may accrete around some other silica-containing nucleus like a sponge spicule or grain of quartz silt. Thus it may be that the paucity of terrigenous clay in the Edwards caused growth of chert nodules around other nuclei.

PLATE 7

- A. Collapse breccia formed after dissolution of evaporite beds. Planar bedded, cherty, miliolid biosparite overlies interval with collapse breccia atop partly dedolomitized dolomite. Beneath a sharp silicified contact is dolomitized sparse biomicrite. See text or West Loop freeway roadcut section in appendix for detailed description. Section photographed is about 15 feet thick.
- B. Photomicrograph of relict dolomite rhombs (dedolomite) in poikilotopic calcite patch. Sample from Colorado River bluff section evaporite-solution collapse-breccia interval. Maximum diameter of large rhomb is 0.07 mm.
- C. Three dimensional view of Edwards chert exposed due to limestone dissolution. Photo taken in Inner Space Caverns near Georgetown. Height at front of photo is about 3-1/2 feet.
- D. Chert apparently formed as a replacement of permeable burrows within a Person Formation sparse biomicrite. Erben quarry section in northeastern part of Sattler quadrangle.



COLLAPSE-BRECCIAS DUE TO DISSOLUTION OF
SUBJACENT EVAPORITE BEDS

Intervals where evaporites have been removed by dissolution occur at several different stratigraphic horizons within the Edwards Group. Two examples from different stratigraphic levels are well exposed at the West Loop freeway (plate 7A) and Colorado River bluff sections in the Austin area (see appendix). A generalized composite section shows the following features:

Grainstone (6 to 3¹/₄ feet thick): crossbedded to planar bedded, chert-bearing miliolid biomicrite to sorted biosparite

Collapse breccia (3 to 25 feet thick): wedge of unsorted highly angular collapse breccia resting on very finely to finely crystalline dolomite and dedolomite; interval also contains chert, cavern-fill limestone with terra rosa, cementation-reduced megapore breccia porosity, pulverulite, and stylolitic recrystallized grainstones

Biomicrite beneath former evaporite beds - intensely altered (2 to 20 feet thick): diagenetically altered sparse biomicrite (sometimes brecciated)-- dolomitized, dedolomitized, and silicified (both pervasive and nodular); upper contact sharp and silicified

Biomicrite and dolomite - less altered: sparse foram-mollusc biomicrite (often heavily dolomitized); upper contact gradational

The paragenesis is interpreted as follows:

- 1) deposition of aragonite and/or calcite sediments;
- 2) penecontemporaneous dolomitization;

- 3) precipitation of bedded gypsum;
- 4) burial by carbonate sediments;
- 5) dissolution of gypsum by nearsurface ground water causing
- 6) collapse of overlying layers and
- 7) dedolomitization;
- 8) deposition of bedded grainstones;
- 9) silicification occurred from 4) through 8).

Interpretation of the West Loop freeway roadcut occurrence

A collapse breccia package lies between the 18th and 26th feet above the Bee Cave-Edwards contact at the West Loop freeway roadcut section (plate 7A and appendix). A similar sequence is found a little higher up in the Edwards at the Blanco-Colorado River divide section (see appendix). The sequence of events began with the deposition of aragonite and calcite sediments in the subtidal-intertidal environments. The most common pre-diagenesis lithology at the West Loop freeway roadcut is burrowed sparse foram and mollusc-fragment biomicrite deposited in a subtidal environment. The commonest pre-evaporite lithologies at the Blanco County section were intertidal flags and laminae of blue-green algal biolithites and intraclastic fine shell-fragment grainstones and wackestones.

The sediments were moderately to completely dolomitized in the supratidal environment. Dolomitization was probably the result of evaporative pumping with concomitant growth of gypsum crystals.

Gypsum continued to precipitate on intermittently flooded, ponded supratidal flats creating beds several feet thick. The gypsum may or may not have been intercalated with primary carbonate sediments.

The gypsum layers were buried by carbonate sediments whose

original texture has been largely obscured during diagenesis. Some beds were evidently cemented early because sparse to packed relict fossils and intraclasts still may be recognized.

As the strandline prograded farther out on the platform the voids in the subtidal, intertidal, and supratidal sediments were filled with fresh water. Gypsum dissolution and removal by meteoric ground water caused collapse of the overlying carbonate layers through removal of subjacent support.

The evaporite solution may have taken place early as suggested by split and distorted chert that appears to have been distended while still plastic, i.e. in the Cretaceous. Alternatively, the chert may have replaced carbonate breccia fragments deformed during pre-chert collapse.

The idealized conditions for creation of dedolomite were well satisfied by the depositional and syndiagenetic setting of these horizons. Dedolomitization was accomplished near the surface by the calcium sulphate-charged ground water that had dissolved the gypsum layers.

Some original texture commonly is preserved through the transformations from aragonite-calcite to dolomite to dedolomite. Some dedolomites have identifiable fossils and describable intraclasts even though twice removed from their original mineralogy. Poikilotopic calcite (dedolomite) patches commonly contain relict zoned dolomite rhombs within them (plate 7B). After dolomite rhombs were expunged of Mg^{++} and replaced by Ca^{++} they may have served as nuclei for calcite overgrowths. Although, much of the poikilotopic calcite is clouded with inclusions and various impurities that tend to indicate a neomorphic rather than a

pore filling origin.

When evaporite layers were dissolved and overlying layers collapsed the depositional surface was lowered several feet with resultant marine inundation. The ensuing sedimentation occurred in a shallow, high energy environment as shown by planar bedding (upper flow regime) and cross-bedding, good sorting of allochems, and intraclasts.

That the evaporite dissolution and consequent collapse brecciation is Cretaceous is also suggested by the nonfolded and undisturbed basal contact of the immediately superjacent grainstones. If collapse had occurred after the grainstones were deposited they should show variable attitudes.

Silicification seems to have continued throughout most of the process as the top of units underlying relict evaporite horizons are silicified, some of the chert within the collapse breccia appears to have been plastic during collapse, the interframework areas of the breccia have cherty infill, and the grainstones overlying the interval are cherty.

Colorado River bluff occurrence

The Kirschberg evaporite horizon, near the middle of the Edwards Group, is well exposed in the cutbank below Tom Miller dam in Austin (see Colorado River bluff section in appendix). It is a condensed section now only 25 to 30 feet thick due to solution removal of some beds. The interval consists of dedolomitized, cherty, collapse breccia and recrystallized limestone with pulverulite, terra rosa, and cavern fill. These heavily altered beds rest on leached dolomites that replaced thinly lensed, intertidal biomicrites and microcoquina.

The overall sequence of events is similar to the West Loop freeway

occurrence except for the length of time between the paragenetic steps. The pronounced anticline-syncline aspect of the overlying beds shows that the major evaporite dissolution post-dated their deposition. Gypsum from this horizon is currently mined near Fredericksburg and ground water from some wells penetrating this horizon is reported to have high sulfate concentrations.

EFFECTS OF FRACTURES AND LITHOLOGY UPON POROSITY DEVELOPMENT

Near-vertical fractures

Joints have provided entryways into the Edwards Group for meteoric water. However, in the subsurface it is doubtful that joints stand open below 400 to 500 feet because of lithostatic load (L. Jan Turk, personal communication, 1973). Commonly, the fractures have been enlarged by solution but only exceptionally to the extreme proportions shown in plate 8B. More commonly the fractures vary between 1/16 to 2 inches with occasional large megapore channels or small caverns (plate 9A). Although cavernous porosity developed along fracture traces is evident within the Edwards the preponderance of porosity has been created in near-horizontal fashion along or within bedding (plate 10A) or along intersections of joints and bedding.

Many near-vertical fractures do not pass uninterrupted through thick sequences of beds; they are developed across only one or a few beds. This is corroborated by the observation that seep springs begin to flow after rainstorms. This means that much of the rain water that does sink into upland surfaces goes down short, near-vertical joints then moves along bedding partings to exit on hillsides.

Burrowed sparse biomicrite

One of the commonest pre-diagenetic lithologies within the Edwards is burrowed sparse biomicrite. The burrows ordinarily contain less micrite and more fossil fragment grains than the host rock. The higher porosity and permeability within burrows results in greater amounts of

ground-water transmittance and hence larger quantities of dissolution. This process of solution enlargement develops through a sequence of commonly observed porosity types. Initially the solution creates larger interparticle pores by removing unstable aragonitic skeletal debris. The intergrain connections commonly grow into mesopore channel systems then into honeycomb porosity. As solution progresses the honeycomb pore network (i.e. cleansed burrows) loses its characteristic shape. It becomes a large megapore or cavern system whose size obliterates the moldic pores that gave rise to the void system.

The inferred sequence of porosity development within burrowed sparse biomicrites can sometimes be seen within a single small exposure. Plate 9B, and the outcrop even more obviously, shows an almost homogeneously developed porosity system. Why is porosity evolved so unequally? This may be a small scale representation of a master conduit porosity system. That is, slight and essentially undetectable primary permeability differences resulted in one or more burrows transmitting slightly greater volumes of ground water with concomitant increases in solution-enlargement. Initially slight permeability differences were continually amplified as burrows with slightly greater original permeability received ever increasing amounts of ground water. This process continued to such a degree that burrows enlarged to small caverns are found next to burrows that received only slight interparticle porosity augmentation. From an almost fortuitous start in a nearly homogeneous bed the process of master conduit development can be inferred in miniature.

Caprinid biolithite

Caprinids are aberrant, thick shelled, highly inequivalved, reef

PLATE 8

- A. Former cavern cutting across the Regional Dense Member now plugged by red, extremely coarsely crystalline calcite. Roadcut along Bear Creek road about 1/2 mile north of Highway 46 in west-central top portion of New Braunfels West quadrangle.
- B. Solution-enlarged joint in basal Edwards Group just above a recessive Exogyra texana marl of the Walnut Fm. Photographed near mouth of Isaac Creek at the 1st crossing of the Guadalupe River.
- C. & D. Near vertical shaft that serves as a drain for a several acre collapse sinkhole. Mouth is about 4 feet across and the pipe drops about 60 feet before reaching first horizontal passage. Located near John Classen ranch house in southeastern corner of Bulverde quadrangle.



building pelecypods. They are several inches long with a gross shape similar to the horns of an impala or bighorn sheep. The shell apparently is constructed of an unstable mineral, probably aragonite, for what is invariably seen is a large mold. The outer wall has a sheath of micrite filled tubes, circular to subcircular in cross section and elongated parallel to the long direction of the mold. When the big (e.g. 8" long x 2" wide), open coiled moldic pores after caprinids are numerous they form large megapore channel systems. Caprinid biolithites are common in the Edwards and many of the honeycombed beds have formed from them (plate 9C). Moldic porosity after caprinids is commonly enlarged into cavernous systems in both the Edwards and Glen Rose.

Large allochem coquina

A third lithology wherein honeycomb porosity develops is shell mounds or placers of rudaceous skeletal debris. The initial high shelter and intergranular porosity allows easy movement of ground water which removes aragonitic shell detritus. The resultant meandering channels and caverns are easily distinguished from the two foregoing honeycomb porosity occurrences by examination of the undissolved host rock. Honeycomb porosity of this origin is not common in the Edwards. The best example is in the basal 25 to 50 feet of the Glen Rose Formation.

Grainstone composed of small fossil fragments

The quantitatively significant skeletal debris within the Edwards is sand to granule sized fossil fragments and miliolids. Dissolution of the aragonitic part of this fraction creates molds, vugs, and mesopore channels. When the fossil fragments occur in thin laminae their removal creates a fenestral sort of porosity usually associated with blue-green

algal stromatolites. Overall porosity development is not as significant in this category as in previously described categories.

Collapse breccia

Collapse breccias resulting from loss of subjacent support due to evaporite dissolution contain large interconnected pores from their beginning. Whether of Cretaceous or Neogene origin they commonly exhibit cavern development. The distinctive features of collapse breccias associated with evaporite horizons separate them from the chaos of cavern collapse breccias.

Breccias formed from the collapse of caverns are usually interpreted as having occurred in the vadose zone (Stringfield and LeGrand, 1969). In this field area, interpretations are that as erosion lowered the land surface, with corresponding declines of the water table, some phreatic zone caverns became part of the vadose zone. Drained of support-giving ground water and as descending vadose waters sapped the roof support, collapses were fairly common.

Surface sinkholes form above collapsed areas and serve as gathering areas which funnel surface precipitation into the interclast porosity of the collapse breccia. Water migrating down through sinkholes dissolved out near-vertical shafts (plates 8C, 8D). The sinkhole and vertical shaft association works like an unstoppered bathtub unless plugged by large quantities of terrigenous clay.

Thus, the aquifer history of a sub-water table cavern, although probably reduced, is not necessarily over if its ceiling collapses after entering the vadose zone. The associated surface depression sends water down through continually enlarged vertical shafts into the collapse

breccia pore system.

Bedding partings

Horizontal bedding surfaces form high permeability avenues for lateral water movement that commonly become enlarged and cavernous. These bedding separations provide egress for many of the small springs noted on the outcrop. This type of porosity is especially effective if the parting separates a lower, poorly permeable bed from an upper bed susceptible to solution. Then water moving along the horizontal separation is channeled to create maximum effective solution in the overlying stratum (plate 9D). Ground water may also move laterally through short vertical joints and pores within the rock layers.

PLATE 9

- A. Solution enlarged fractures with occasional small caverns in the upper beds of the Grainstone Member of the Kainer Formation. Exposed in a McDonough Bros. quarry on Highway 281 in the west-central top portion of the Longhorn quadrangle. Quarry wall about 30 feet high.
- B. Evenly distributed burrows in sparse biomicrite of the Kainer Fm. Note the porosity variations from filled burrows to partially excavated burrows to cleansed burrows to large megapore channels to small caverns. Outcrop is in Erben quarry in the northeastern part of the Sattler quadrangle.
- C. Honeycomb porosity developed in moldic fashion within a caprinid bank. Some steinkerns and tubes are visible. Photographed at Bear Creek roadcut section in west-central Sattler quadrangle.
- D. Cavern (3 ft. high) developed within a caprinid biolithite above a solution-enlarged bedding separation. Notice that no vertical joints intersect the cavern. Exposed on the Foster Ranch along Barton Creek in the Austin West quadrangle.



DRUSY ENCRUSTATION AND SECONDARY CALCITE INFILL

Megapore channel (honeycomb) porosity systems presumably develop in the phreatic zone. When the water table drops and places void networks into the vadose zone it is believed that precipitation of calcite (or dolomite, aragonite, etc.) dominates (Stringfield and LeGrand, 1969).

Meteoric water percolates down through soil and picks up additional carbon dioxide which increases its acidity. Water descending through the vadose zone with carbonic acid concentrations in equilibrium with atmospheric carbon dioxide will cause solution of carbonate rock. When calcium carbonate-saturated ground water enters a channel or cavern with lower pressure than nearby small pores some carbon dioxide escapes with a concomitant decrease in acidity. This results in calcite precipitation. The mineralization ordinarily begins with drusy encrustations and this porosity reduction by cementation commonly goes to completion. Customarily, voids are not filled in one simple episode as is indicated by calcite bands, patches of different color (clear, white, yellow, orange, red), and varying crystal sizes and shapes (plates 10B, 10C, 10D).

On hillslope outcrops the Edwards generally seems less porous than in roadcuts and quarries. This is partly due to infilling of voids by caliche which is masked by the typical gray patina which covers the Edwards outcrop.

PLATE 10

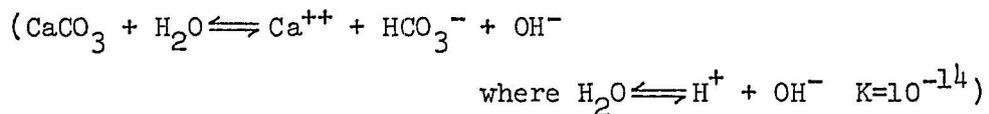
- A. Solutionways and caverns are preferentially developed in certain Person Formation strata. Several former caverns are now infilled with terra rosa. Exposure in cut-face in Servtex Materials Company quarry in southeastern Bat Cave quadrangle. Section photographed is about 20 feet thick.
- B. Cementation-reduced porosity in collapse breccia in Person Formation. Servtex Materials Company quarry.
- C. & D. Highly dissolved lithologies within the Person Formation. Secondary calcite infill occurs as drusy encrustations. Servtex Materials Company quarry.



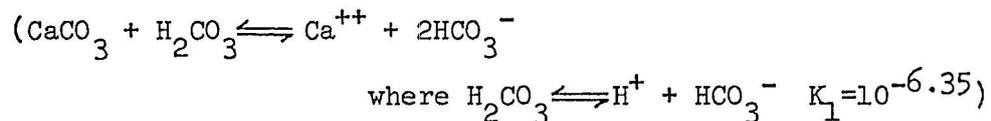
SOME TRADITIONAL PRINCIPLES OF CARBONATE HYDROLOGY

The study of carbonate hydrology has been closely linked with the geomorphology of karst terranes. A ruling hypothesis in this realm is the two-cycle theory of cave development proposed by William Morris Davis (1930). Davis recognized the dominance of ground-water dissolution in the phreatic zone and the importance of precipitation in the vadose zone, i.e. "caverns are produced largely by ground-water solution below the water table and then, after regional elevation, drained of their previous water-filling and on thus becoming filled with ground-air, made ready for dripstone deposition."

Ground water circulating through carbonate rock creates and enlarges an aquifer. Hydrolysis



is very slow although significant solution can be accomplished by large flows of ground water over long intervals of time. Meteoric water equilibrates with atmospheric carbon dioxide ($P_{\text{CO}_2}=3 \times 10^{-4}$) to form carbonic acid which dissolves limestone



much more readily.

Water that percolates down through a soil profile is exposed to carbon dioxide concentrations ($P_{\text{CO}_2}=10^{-1}$) about three orders of magnitude greater than the atmospheric value (Thraillkill, 1968). However the greater

acidity of vadose seepage increases carbonate rock dissolution near the land surface such that these waters may reach the water table super-saturated with respect to calcite.

The heterogeneous void systems in carbonate rock cause ground water to produce highly anisotropic aquifers. Near vertical joints and faults and horizontal bedding separations are important permeability occurrences in carbonate rocks. The relatively homogeneous intergranular pores that typify sandstone are rivaled in number of occurrences by intra-granular, intercrystalline, fenestral, moldic, collapse breccia, and other heterogeneous pore types.

The rudiments of carbonate hydrology have typically been explained by a logical analysis of the standard flow net (Rhoades and Sinacori, 1941). Ground water is shown to flow in arcuate, concave upward paths that descend beneath recharge sites and ascend toward discharge points (figure 5).

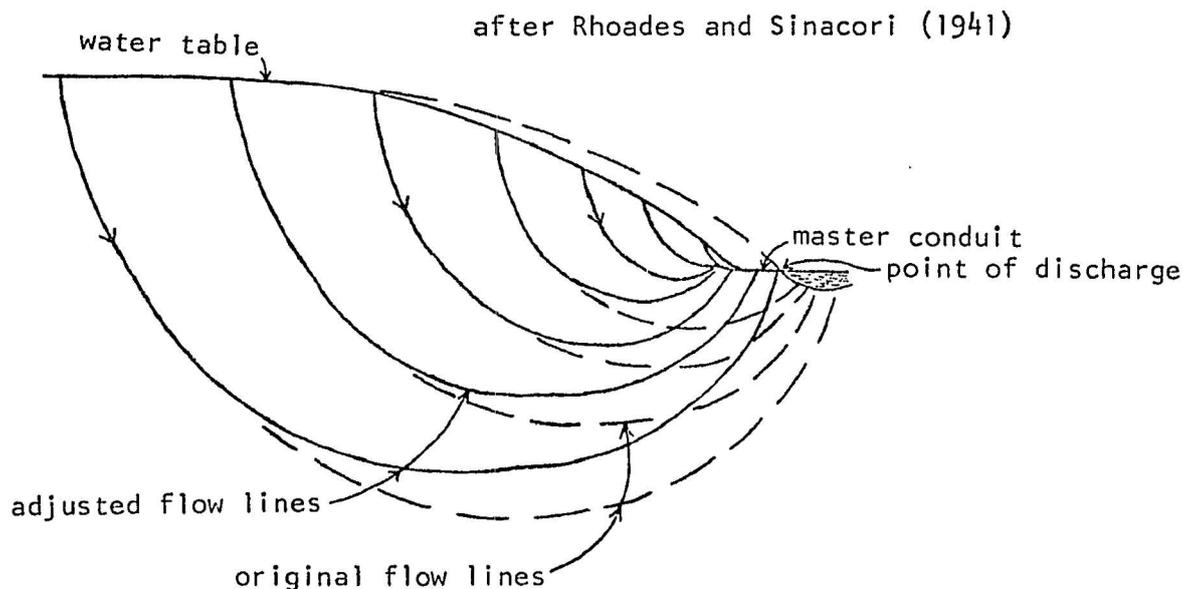


Figure 5 IDEALIZED FLOW NET AND DEVELOPMENT OF A MASTER CONDUIT

Flow tubes are depicted as moving through larger volumes of rock with increases in depth and distance from the discharge area. Since a flow tube running near the water table is passing the same volume of ground water through a markedly smaller rock volume than a deeper flow tube it would appear that the shallower flow path will receive more solution per unit volume than a longer, deeper water route. This relatively concentrated dissolution near the water table and discharge outlets creates solution-enlarged channel systems that siphon off ever increasing percentages of the ground water. A self-ramifying process is in effect as greater volumes of water flow cause greater amounts of dissolution which ultimately results in interconnected cavern systems termed master conduits by Rhoades and Sinacori (1941).

A more complex model of recharge, rock dissolution, and ground water flow in a limestone terrane is shown in figure 6.

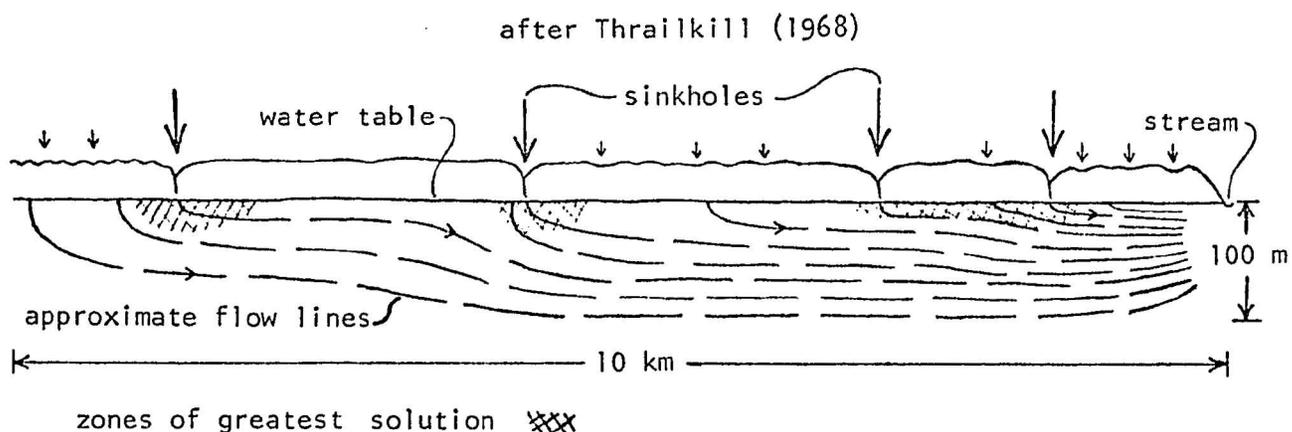


Figure 6 LIMESTONE AQUIFER RECEIVING IRREGULARLY DISTRIBUTED VOLUMES OF RECHARGE

This generalized system invokes a more realistic, irregular distribution of recharge. Meteoric water is supplied to the aquifer by local, high volume, calcite-undersaturated vadose flows and pervasive, low volume, calcite-saturated to supersaturated vadose seepage. Shallow phreatic dissolution is expected to be concentrated at vadose flow entry areas such as beneath sinkholes or swallow-holes. The undersaturated vadose flow contribution will then be deflected laterally by regional flow patterns thus tending to concentrate dissolution into somewhat horizontal channels.

SOME ASPECTS OF HYDROLOGY WITHIN THE EDWARDS LIMESTONE

The foregoing models are placed in better perspective when cross-sections of the Edwards Limestone aquifer are constructed with little or no vertical exaggeration (figure 7).

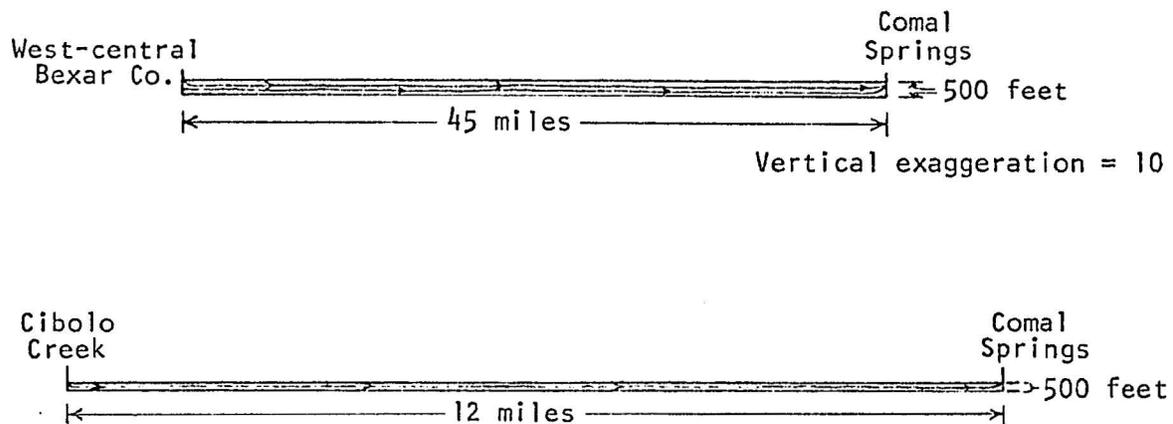


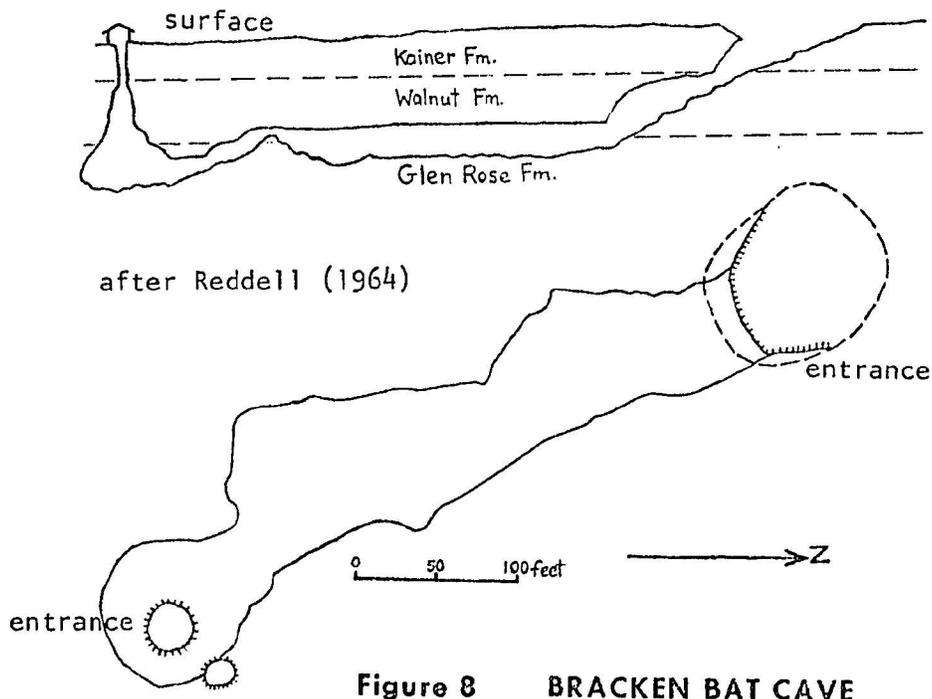
Figure 7 NEAR SCALE CROSS SECTIONS OF EDWARDS LIMESTONE AQUIFER

The few natural discharge sites from the Edwards confined aquifer (figure 3) are widely separated. Thus when flow lines are drawn on a true scale diagram the Edwards Limestone is not thick enough to allow construction of looping flow lines with consequent discussions of relative amounts of solution-enlargement in shallow versus deep flow tubes (figure 7). From a regional viewpoint the Edwards Limestone appears as a thin, faulted, near horizontal, readily soluble, bedded carbonate rock body sandwiched between less permeable rocks. The many miles between some

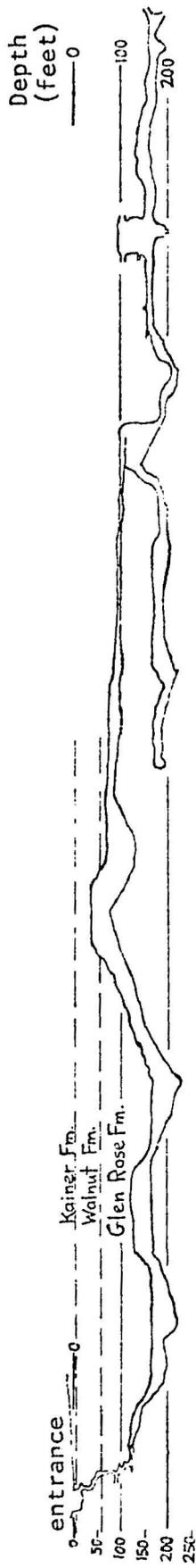
recharge sites and the discharge outlets makes the entire Edwards Limestone in the Balcones fault zone appear like a master conduit.

Meteoric water primarily enters the Edwards Limestone as high volume vadose flows in a relatively small number of localities rather than as widespread, pervasive vadose seepage. Most of the major surface flow entryways occur in stream beds through solution-enlarged, near vertical joints or through the edges of shallow dipping beds.

The type of cavern systems developed within the area can probably best be visualized by inspecting cave maps made by spelunkers. Maps are available for Bat Cave and Natural Bridge Caverns located on the Bat Cave quadrangle (figures 8 and 9).



These caverns have developed in the Glen Rose Formation next to the Bat Cave fault and on its upthrown block. Although the caves have formed in



after Reddell (1964)

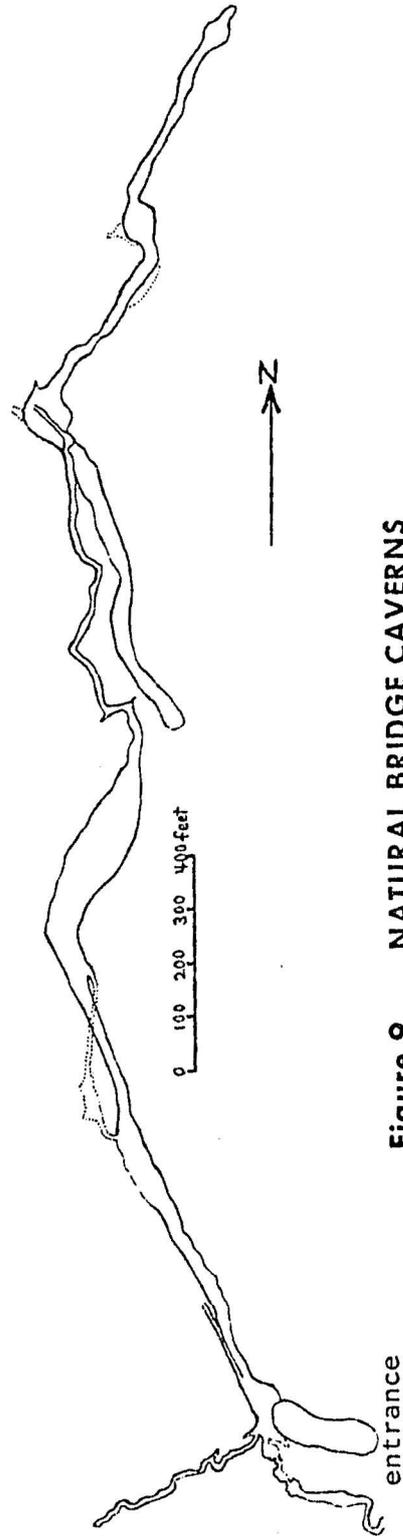


Figure 9 NATURAL BRIDGE CAVERNS

the Glen Rose their shape is probably similar to those developed in the Edwards Limestone. The caverns probably formed in the phreatic zone and are now sites for speleothem precipitation. The Bat Cave fault trends roughly N65E and plan views of the cave patterns indicate the control of the fault and its associated joints. Bat Cave trends about N25W at a right angle to the Bat Cave fault. The major passages of Natural Bridge Caverns run roughly N25W and N25E with a lesser cavern branch elongated N65E essentially parallel to the Bat Cave fault.

Cross-sections (figures 8 and 9) show that long segments of the caves are preferentially developed in horizontal fashion along bedding. In one stretch of Natural Bridge Caverns (figure 9) there are two subhorizontal passages developed at different levels within the upper dolomite (subdivision K) of the Glen Rose Formation. Different levels of cave formation within the same lithologic unit would seem to make a good analogue to conditions within the Edwards Limestone.

Ground water flowing within the Edwards Group has been markedly influenced by the lithologically different, horizontal beds. Flow lines are radically distorted by bedding and subhorizontally developed permeability. Typically, channels and small caverns are restricted to certain flat-lying beds or subhorizontal facies (plate 10A). It is the presence of widespread porous and permeable beds that accounts for the large number of successful wells in the region rather than the fortuitous intersections of solution-enlarged, near vertical fractures.

Surface areas exposing the Person Formation appear to have undergone more extensive karstification than regions of Kainer Formation outcrop. However, close inspection of measured sections and cores (see

appendix) shows the Kainer and Person Formations are similar lithologically and that vugs, honeycombed strata, enlarged horizontal and vertical joints, and caverns occur throughout both formations.

Ground water emerging from the Edwards Group appears undersaturated with respect to calcium carbonate as evidenced by the lack of tufa precipitation around discharge outlets. However, analytical data of the U. S. Geological Survey show that water in the Edwards commonly is saturated or supersaturated with respect to calcite (Robert W. Maclay, personal communication, 1973). Although supersaturation is common the values evidently are not great enough to exceed the nucleation threshold necessary for aragonite precipitation.

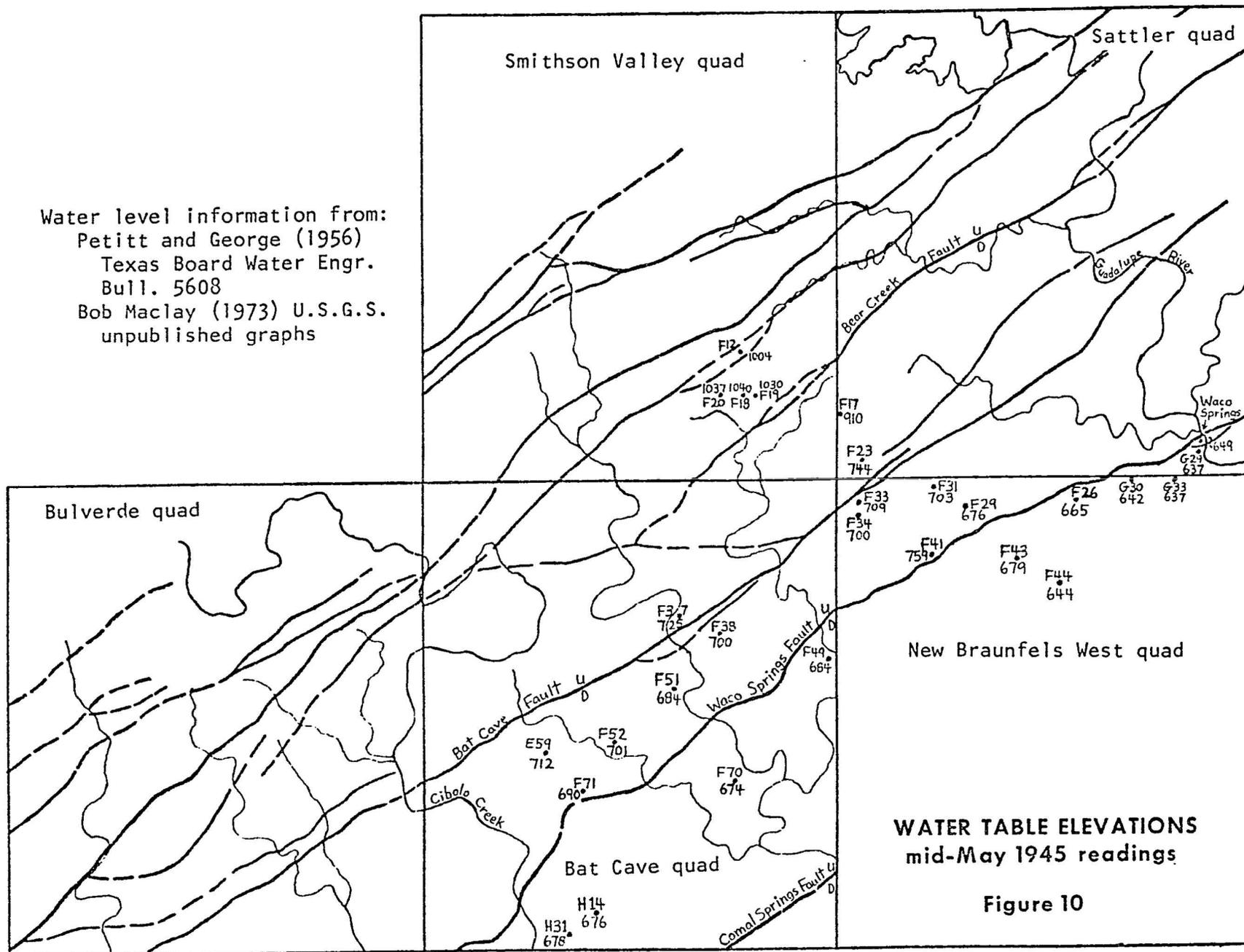
Much of the ground water discharged through Comal Springs has moved underground several tens of miles and must have descended a few hundred feet below the surface to explain its elevated temperature. Yet even at Comal Springs where warmed water of relatively long residence time comes up from depth there is no aragonite or calcite precipitation around the outlets.

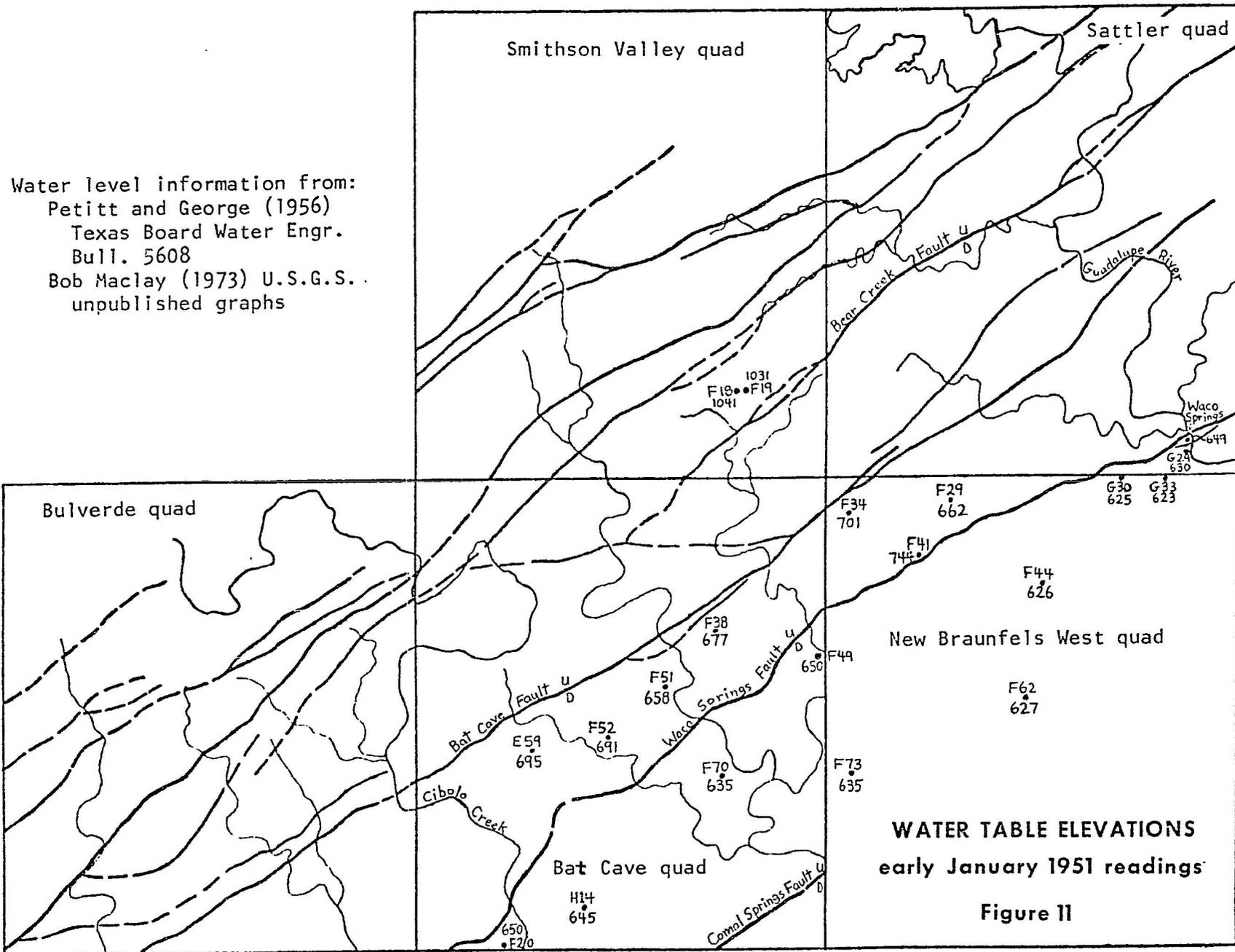
FAULT CONTROL OF GROUND-WATER FLOW

Faults commonly provide conduits for lateral water movement or they may juxtapose different aquifers so that water can move downdip across faults. In other cases the faults serve as barriers which have been instrumental in creating large discharges.

Plots of water table (static head) elevations were made (figures 10 and 11) in order to evaluate the effect of specific faults upon ground-water movement. Several books of water table elevations are available. The data consist primarily of multiple readings in the San Antonio and confined aquifer areas or of onetime water level readings in the surrounding areas. Although many wells are available for mapping the ground-water flow pattern along faults there are insufficient continuous hydrograph records and it is impossible to utilize the typical readings which were taken in widely varying months and years. Figure 10 shows a plot of water table elevations determined during a few days in May, 1945, and figure 11 plots water level readings made in early January, 1951.

The ground-water levels plotted on figures 10 and 11 do not provide sufficient data to make conclusive interpretations on the direction of ground-water movement locally. There is an overall slope of the potentiometric surface toward the southeast but this is also the direction of the regional dip. An imperfect trend of declining water table elevations to the northeast within fault blocks can be seen in figures 10 and 11. A specific program designed to measure water table elevations along and across major faults would yield additional data that might allow more





conclusive evaluations of the influence of faults upon ground-water movement.

Waco and Comal Springs are major outlets that drain a large part of Comal and Comal/Bexar Counties, respectively. Although they appear to be independent, unconnected systems they are only separated by 3 miles in a north-south direction semiparallel to the Guadalupe River.

Waco springs

The Waco Springs rise along the Waco Springs fault at two sites in the floodplain just west of the Guadalupe River in the southeastern part of the Sattler quadrangle. Water emerges from outlets about 5 and 10 feet above the level of the Guadalupe River, at flows ranging from 0 to 96 cu.ft./sec., with temperatures fluctuating between 68 to 71°F., and with turbid flow after heavy rains.

The Waco Springs fault, and the dipping beds near it, appear to have had an impeding or channelizing effect on ground-water flow that has been part responsible for the location of Waco Springs. Near the Guadalupe River the Waco Springs fault splits into a sliver (Bills, 1957) from which the Waco Springs emerge out of arched beds that dip back to the northwest. This rollover, plus the possible juxtaposition of less permeable beds on the downthrown side against more permeable beds on the upthrown side, has caused ground water to be diverted along the fault. It is interpreted that this diversion was reinforced by development of a cavern system parallel to the fault which has grown in dominance through time.

The Waco Springs recharge and delivery system was partly explained by Bills (1957) who followed up the disposition of a localized August

rainstorm during the drought of 1956 when the springs were not flowing. An isolated thunder storm dumped up to five inches of rain in the vicinity of Smithson Valley. All the surface runoff went bank full down the west fork of Dry Comal Creek until reaching the Bear Creek fault where it went underground (plate 4 in rear pocket). Approximately 24 hours after this rain the west Waco Spring began discharging about 2 cu.ft./sec. of slightly muddy water which subsided and ceased two days later.

The flood water that went underground on the west fork of Dry Comal creek at the crossing with the Bear Creek fault (plate 4) most likely descended through the cover of alluvium and Walnut Formation into the upper dolomite (subdivision K) of the Glen Rose Formation. The ground water probably moved toward the Bat Cave fault through a cavern system trending S25E like the nearby Bat Cave (figure 8) and Natural Bridge Caverns (figure 9). The ground water apparently crossed the Bat Cave fault which juxtaposes the cavernous upper dolomite of the Glen Rose against the Kainer Formation (plate 11 in rear pocket). Then the ground water may have moved more or less diagonally across the narrow fault block between the Bat Cave and Waco Springs faults, passed beneath the Dietz Ranch megacollapse area, and emerged through contorted beds within a fault sliver along the Waco Springs fault to create Waco Springs. Of course the flood water that flowed down Dry Comal Creek may not be the same water which came out Waco Springs. Local flood recharge increases the head within the aquifer and the transmitted effect of an increased head may cause the springs to flow.

It is interpreted that the Waco Springs water supply system runs

in large part to the east and northeast, or approximately at right angles to the surface drainage. The direction of flow is apparently subparallel to the faults and seems to illustrate the effect of the fault system on the ancient ground-water flow network. The pattern of these subsurface caverns was probably determined soon after the Guadalupe River exposed the Edwards Limestone and Waco Springs fault and opened up a discharge site. The conduit system was probably well established before the various tributary streams had cut down to near their present positions.

Comal springs

Comal Springs is a first magnitude spring whose average flow is greater than the runoff from the 1,432 square mile drainage area of the Guadalupe River above the springs. The water emerges in Landa Park in New Braunfels along a 500 yard length of the main fault-line scarp of the Balcones system (Comal Springs fault) about a mile from the Guadalupe River, which is 40 feet lower. The water is never turbid and its temperature remains steady at 74°F. which is 6° higher than the average annual temperature at New Braunfels. This increased temperature has been accounted for by circulation paths between 300 to 500 feet below the surface (George, 1948, 1952).

The immense discharge of clear, constant temperature water indicates that Comal Springs is the outlet for ground water collected over a vast area. To the north lies the effluent Guadalupe River and the isolated Waco Springs system which draws from the northwest. To the east and south is highly mineralized water from across the bad-water line. Thus the ground water must be derived from the southwest. This means the subsurface water flow is subparallel to the Balcones faults, about at right angles to

the surface drainage, and at oblique angles to the regional dip and to the regional piezometric contours.

The Comal Springs fault has entirely displaced the Edwards Group in southern Comal County and caused it to abut a relatively impermeable seal of Washita Division and Gulf Series strata. Ground water migrating toward the south or east is stopped when it reaches this barrier and diverted toward the northeast along the Comal Springs fault to discharge sites opened by the downcutting of the ancestral Guadalupe River. It is hypothesized that a master conduit system, or a greater volume of honeycombed and cavernous beds, has formed parallel to the fault beneath a cover of younger rocks in analogous, and parallel, fashion to the Waco Springs system. Much of the cavernous channel system passing through Comal County to Comal Springs has been stripped of overburden and is now part of the unconfined aquifer region.

Comal Springs must derive the bulk of its water from the confined reservoir in Bexar County. The cavernous porosity system leading to Comal Springs shows some parallelism to the main Balcones fault in Comal County but the boundary of the artesian aquifer in Bexar County is apparently hydrologically controlled as it shows no direct relationship to the fault traces (compare plates 1 & 11 in Arnow, 1963).

Ancestral Comal Springs was probably established early in the history of the aquifer and at regionally low elevations due to greater incision or relatively early deep degradation of the ancestral Guadalupe River. The effect of the lower outlet elevation of Comal Springs has been felt by the ground-water body in Comal and Bexar Counties which then tended to move toward this sink. It is hypothesized that the originally subtle

"feel" of a lower elevation discharge site has been made somewhat permanent through creation of a cavern and channel system that funnels ground water to Comal Springs. Both the transmitted effect of a low discharge location and the growth and piracy accomplished by headward-growing master conduits have created a circulation system whose southeastern boundary in Bexar County is hydraulically, rather than fault, controlled. The demarcation between the cavernous, high-yield aquifer and the non-cavernous, higher salinity zone occurs within fault blocks in rocks of similar depositional lithologies and is apparently a ground water bypass boundary.

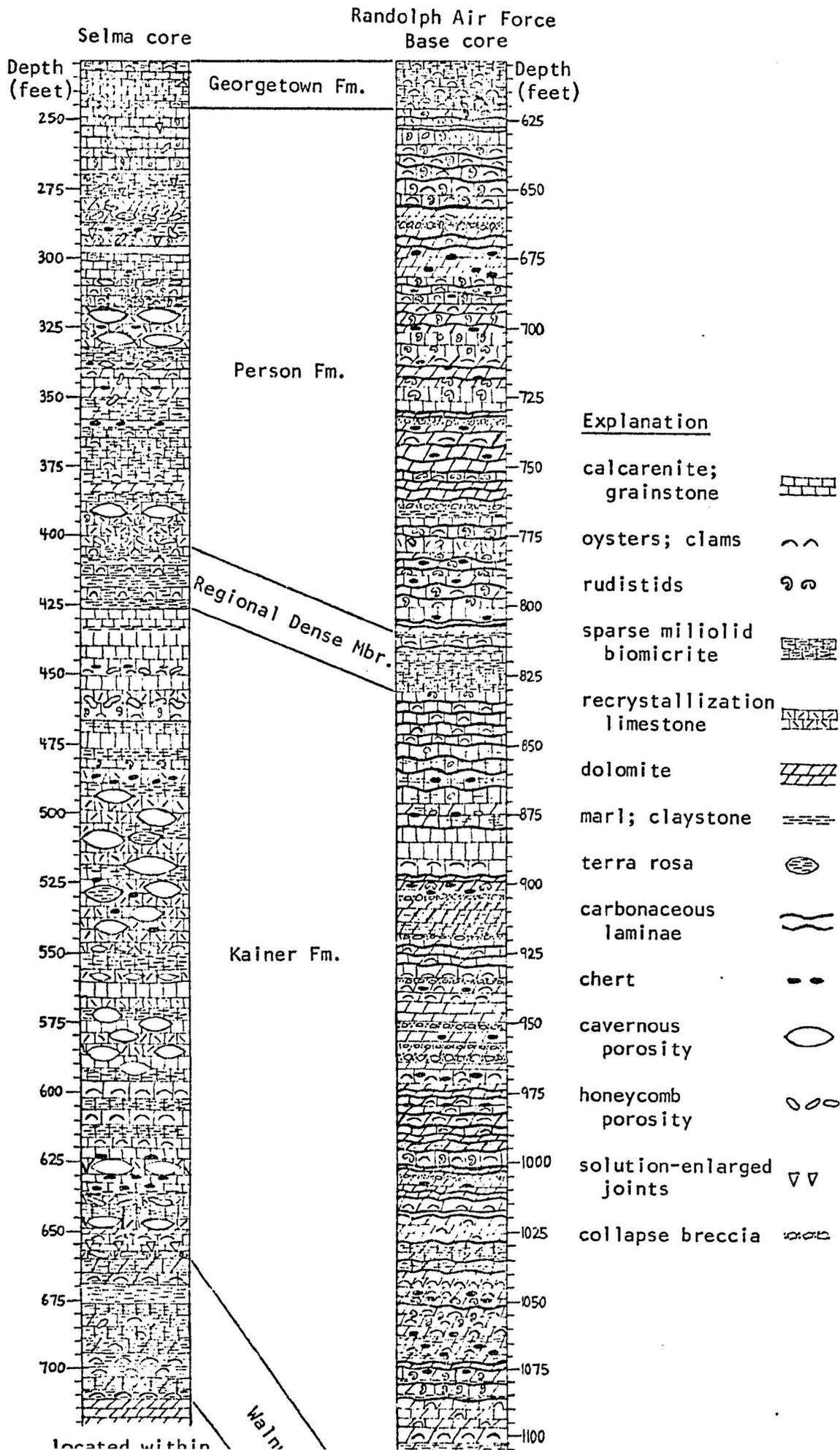
BAD-WATER LINE

The southeastern boundary of the Edwards underground reservoir is a marked and mappable "bad-water line" where the total dissolved solids increases from a few hundred parts per million to greater than 1,000 ppm with a hydrogen sulfide odor. The line generally trends northeast similar to the strikes of the Balcones faults although for much of its length it does not appear fault controlled.

The U. S. Geological Survey has recently cored a hole near Randolph Air Force Base (see appendix and figure 12) that is just into the "bad-water" zone. This core appears strikingly different from the outcrop and artesian aquifer Edwards (see appendix and figure 12). The most noticeable aspect of the Randolph AFB core is its freedom from the type of meteoric water alteration commonly seen in updip rocks. The Edwards in the bad-water zone has undergone a disparate type of diagenesis. Missing are the caverns, honeycomb channel systems, solution-enlarged joints, pseudosparite beds and evident dedolomites, terra rosa, and pervasive iron oxide stains that characterize the outcrop and subsurface Edwards aquifer.

In lieu of the above items are found ubiquitous carbonaceous laminae and oil stains, a greater percentage of dolomite, gray and whitish coloration, interparticle porosity with occasional large crystals within the voids, and a dense carbonate matrix that is too fine to be accurately described with a hand lens.

The considerably different lithology of the Randolph AFB core obviously indicates a different post-depositional history. The bad-water



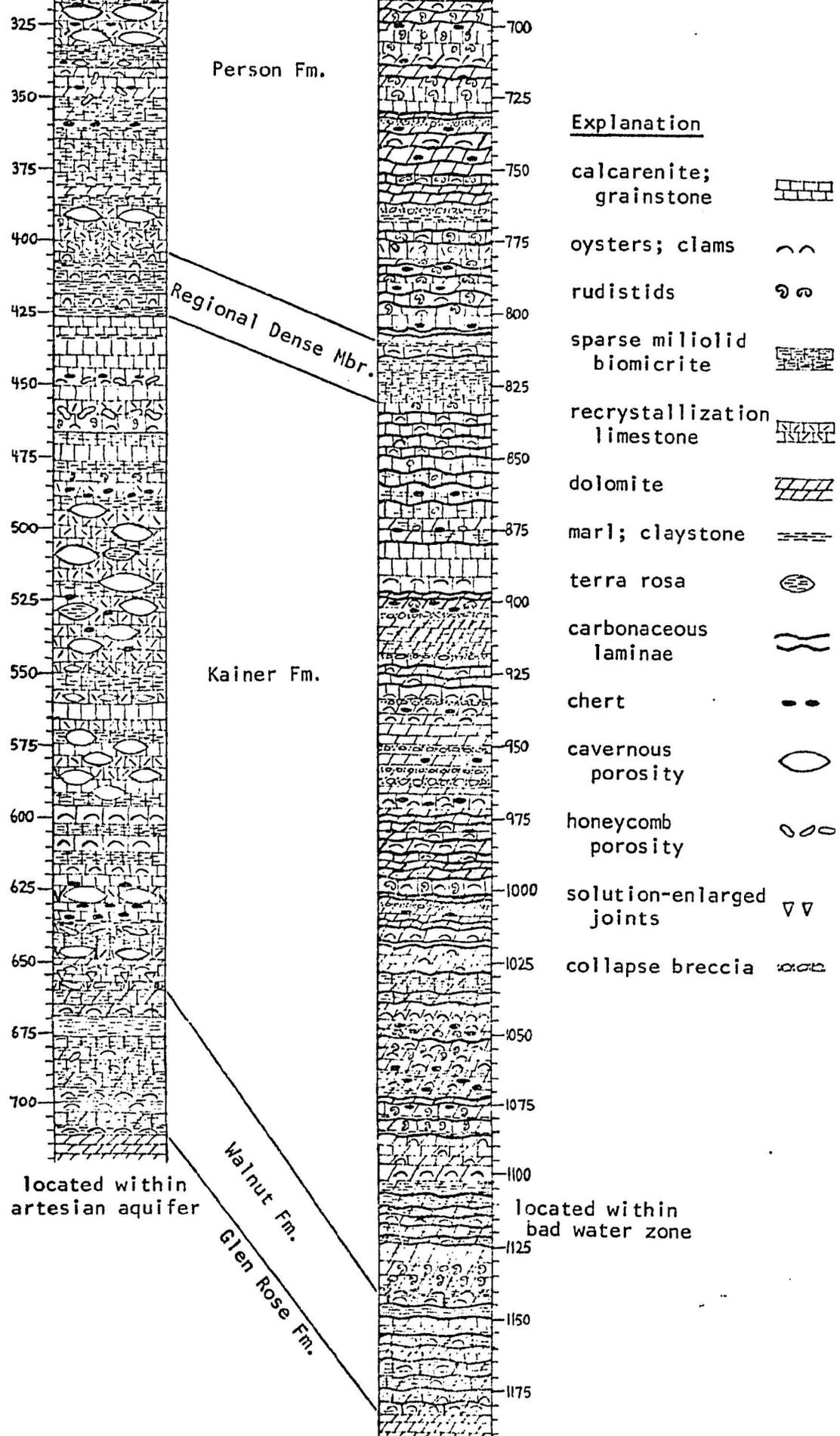


Figure 12 COMPARISON OF RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE AND SELMA CORES

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zone Edwards has not been exposed to the large quantities of meteoric water that have moved through the adjacent artesian aquifer. Consequently the rocks lack the solution-enlargement, recrystallization, and dedolomitization characteristic of the updip rocks. The bad-water line was created as a bypass boundary that meteoric water moving under structural or hydrologic controls did not transgress. Ground water moving toward the Comal Springs sink enlarged its initial flow paths, which once established continued to grow. What originally may have been a random hydrologic flow boundary became more deeply ingrained with time.

EFFECT OF REGIONAL DENSE MEMBER ON GROUND WATER FLOW

Early in the investigation the thought was held that the Regional Dense Member might serve as a hydraulic barrier or seal separating the Kainer and Person Formations into semiseparate aquifers. However, open and infilled caverns have been observed that cut across the Regional Dense Member near the Comal Springs and Waco Springs faults.

The Barrett Industries quarry, near the southwestern corner of the Bat Cave quadrangle, uses the Regional Dense Member as a working floor in the eastern part of their pit. The overlying unit (Collapsed Member of Person Formation, Rose, 1972) is cavernous and collapsed because descending meteoric water has been ponded and diverted horizontally by the Regional Dense Member thus concentrating dissolution in the superjacent unit. The impeded or perched ground water has also enlarged joints through dissolution and created small caverns that descend through the Regional Dense Member. The quarry superintendent said that even heavy rains do not stand in ponds on the Regional Dense Member working surface because the internal drainage is so well developed. Dynamite sticks dropped down swallow holes in the Regional Dense Member blow out debris from numerous outlets in the quarry and nearby stream bed. Thus, in a rather dramatic fashion, an interconnected cavern system is shown to cross the Regional Dense Member which casts grave doubts upon its efficacy as a hydraulic barrier.

Roadcuts just north of the Waco Springs fault along Bear Creek road in the New Braunfels West quadrangle display caverns in the Regional

Dense Member that have been plugged by secondary calcite (plate 8A). When this area was below the water table, the caverns cutting across the Regional Dense Member would have connected the Person and Kainer Formations hydrologically.

Although the Regional Dense Member may not create an impassable seal it seems to create locally perched ground-water bodies which flow laterally through the immediately overlying strata. This characteristic is documented by the karstic development commonly expressed between the Waco Springs and Bat Cave faults. Within this particular fault block are a profusion of sinkholes and some mega-collapse areas.

In the southeastern part of the Bulverde quadrangle this fault block has the Regional Dense Member exposed in creek bottoms and walls whereas the interstream areas above the Regional Dense Member are dotted with plentiful sinkholes (plate 3 in pocket). Most are small dolines that are commonly used as stockpounds. Some restricted tracts contain several individually noteworthy collapses within what is here termed a mega-collapse area. On the former John Classen ranch a large depression (spot elevation 983) one km. south of the southern bend of Cibolo Creek displays some erratic dips in petrified wood-bearing Person beds that have collapsed down through the Regional Dense Member. About 3/4 km. to the southeast is another large enclosed bowl that drains through a prominent vertical shaft used as a civil defense training cave (plates 8C and 8D).

Another so-called mega-collapse area is in the same fault block (i.e. bounded by Waco Springs and Bat Cave faults) in the northwestern part of the New Braunfels West quadrangle (plate 1 in pocket). The surface of this region is largely a mesquite covered, cherty, terra rosa regolith

which obscures the relationships around some large collapses. On the Dietz Ranch there are Georgetown and Del Rio beds at the general stratigraphic level of the Regional Dense Member and completely surrounded by Edwards strata. This stratigraphic association, accompanied by some steep dips, suggests a downward collapse of about 200 feet.

OVERVIEW OF EDWARDS AQUIFER

A generalized geographic and chronologic picture of the Edwards aquifer is obtained by synthesizing the geologic literature with observations made during the field work for this report.

Edwards Limestone permeability provinces

A perspective view of the Edwards Limestone as a variably perforated container for fluids suggests three general provinces: 1) the Gulf coastal plain, 2) the Edwards plateau, and 3) the Balcones fault zone. This tripartite separation allows a comparison of Cretaceous versus Miocene and younger porosity development as well as an interpretation of the effect of abundant, permeable, discontinuous, near-vertical fractures.

Gulf coastal plain. Erosion before Georgetown deposition removed about 100 feet of upper Edwards (Person) along the axis of the San Marcos platform and proportionately less down the clinofolds (Rose, 1968). Accompanying the surficial erosion of Person was subsurface dissolution by Cretaceous meteoric ground water. This was superimposed on the penecontemporaneous porosity that formed during the exposures accompanying deposition of the abundant supratidal deposits.

The resultant porosity systems have become oil reservoir rocks in places such as the Fashing-Person trend in Atascosa, Karnes and Gonzales Counties. These rocks of relatively higher porosity generally lie on the upthrown sides of fault blocks where Cretaceous leaching was more intense due to greater lengths of exposure on persistent structural highs (Rose, 1968). This basinward Edwards is now buried beneath about 3,000 feet of

Upper Cretaceous and Paleocene clayey marine strata and 7,000 feet of Eocene and Oligocene paralic and fluvial terrigenous sediment. This thick blanketing sedimentary cover precluded the creation of discharge outlets, which are the prime requisite in setting up a viable groundwater circulation system. Thus the extant porosity in these oil reservoirs must be considered the product of Cretaceous meteoric water.

After examining cores from this trend, Rose (1968) described the pore systems as fine intercrystalline and intergranular porosity with fairly good permeability in leached, porous dolomite; vugs are uncommon and fractures are not enlarged by solution. Extending this porosity description along the San Marcos platform gives a rough picture of the average Cretaceous contribution to the creation of the Edwards aquifer. However, higher on the platform are pre-Dr. Burt and pre-Eagle Ford collapses indicating the existence of locally cavernous conditions in the Cretaceous (Keith Young, personal communication, 1973).

Eastern Edwards plateau. The shallow, back-reef Comanche shelf was repeatedly traversed by similar depositional environments and resultant facies. The Edwards beneath the Gulf coastal plain is lithologically and paleontologically similar to that of the eastern Edwards plateau.

The Edwards on the central part of the Comanche shelf (Central Texas platform of Rose, 1968) was interred beneath a considerably thinner Washita Division and Gulf Series section. The thinner cover on the Edwards was largely the result of shoaling and hiatuses following deposition of the Eagle Ford, Austin, and Taylor. The Edwards plateau has been above sea level since the Late Cretaceous.

As erosion progressed through the Tertiary streams cut through the

Washita-Gulf blanket and reached the Edwards as a result of uplift accompanying Balcones faulting in the Miocene. Porosity and permeability have developed through utilization and solution-enlargement of primary intergranular voids, loosely filled burrows, joints, and bedding partings. Penecontemporaneous sea water and/or later ground water has leached gypsum layers to create porous collapse breccias and remove aragonite fossils. The aforementioned pore types have been locally enlarged into vugs, channels and caverns.

Presently, some of the rain falling on central Texas seeps into the Edwards Limestone and emerges as springs where canyons have cut down to the water table and/or the base of the Edwards Limestone. Significant withdrawals are made by water wells but the yields are generally only enough to supply the sparse population of people and large population of livestock. Typical yields from the Edwards on the plateau are about 2 to 15 gallons per minute with occasional larger wells yielding several tens of gallons per minute. Springs discharging into canyons cut below the Edwards (i.e. where the aquifer ends) have flows up to 2nd and 3rd magnitude (10-100 and 1-10 cu.ft./sec. respectively) in the Meinzer (1923) classification.

Balcones fault zone. Of especial interest is the faulted Edwards Limestone confined beneath the western margin of the Gulf coastal plain. The depositional facies of the Edwards are similar to those found in the Fashing-Person trend beneath the Gulf coastal plain and on the eastern Edwards plateau. Yet the Edwards here commonly yields in excess of 1,000 gallons per minute to water wells and several large springs exist. Comal and San Marcos Springs are both of 1st magnitude (greater than 100 ft³/sec)

and other springs of 2nd magnitude (10-100 ft³/sec) are fairly common (figure 3). These high yields exist only in this fractured belt and thus demonstrate the significance of faulting and associated permeable joints in the development of the aquifer. Surface water has used these discontinuous, near vertical fractures as avenues of access for solutional attack upon the entire Edwards section.

Geologic history of Edwards underground reservoir

Cretaceous porosity. The Cretaceous syndepositional porosity and permeability within the Edwards Limestone consisted largely of intergranular voids within skeletal grainstones and loosely packed burrows in biomicrites; intraparticle voids within bioclastic grains and shelter porosity beneath them; intercrystalline interstices in supratidal dolomites created by evaporative pumping; shrinkage cracks; fenestral openings after the blue-green algae in stromatolite biolithites; growth-framework voids in rudist biostromes and bioherms; some of the moldic pores after aragonite fossils; and breccia porosity from collapsed layers overlying dissolved supratidal evaporite beds.

Primary permeability and porosity was enlarged through solution by meteoric water supplied during the time the Edwards was being eroded and before Georgetown deposition commenced. Rose (1968) discussed an erosional vacuity of 100 feet of Person along the axis of the San Marcos platform. Erosion of this magnitude in a low relief carbonate terrane should be accompanied by large-scale karstification and dissolution concentrated in the upper beds of Person Formation (figure 13A). However, reports of Cretaceous karst are scarce. One occurrence is east of Kerrville where the Dr. Burt Member has apparently collapsed into the Kainer

Formation (Keith Young, personal communication, 1972).

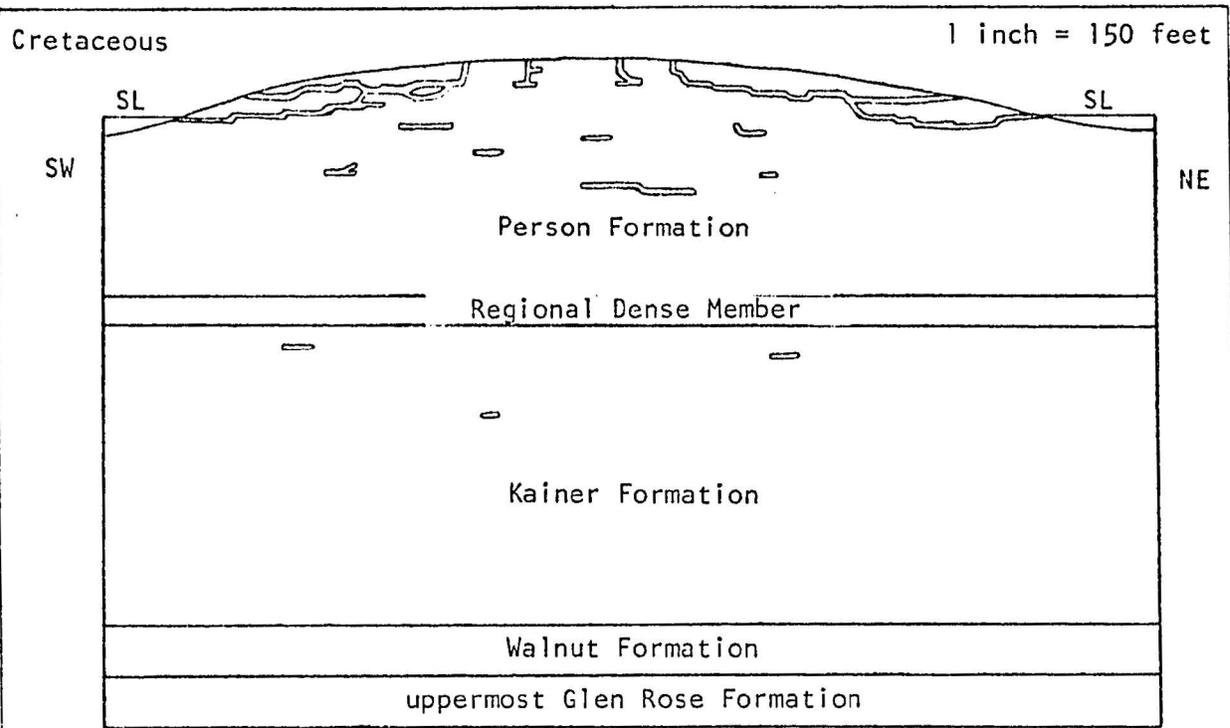
Cretaceous burial. The post-Edwards lacuna was terminated as deposition of the argillaceous biomicrites of the Georgetown began. Sediments continued to accumulate until well into the Late Cretaceous and with considerable thinning over the San Marcos platform. Washita and Gulfian strata interring the Edwards in Comal and northern Bexar Counties totalled around 500-850 feet (Table 3 and figure 13B).

Table 3. Approximate thickness of sedimentary seal over Edwards Group in Comal and northern Bexar Counties

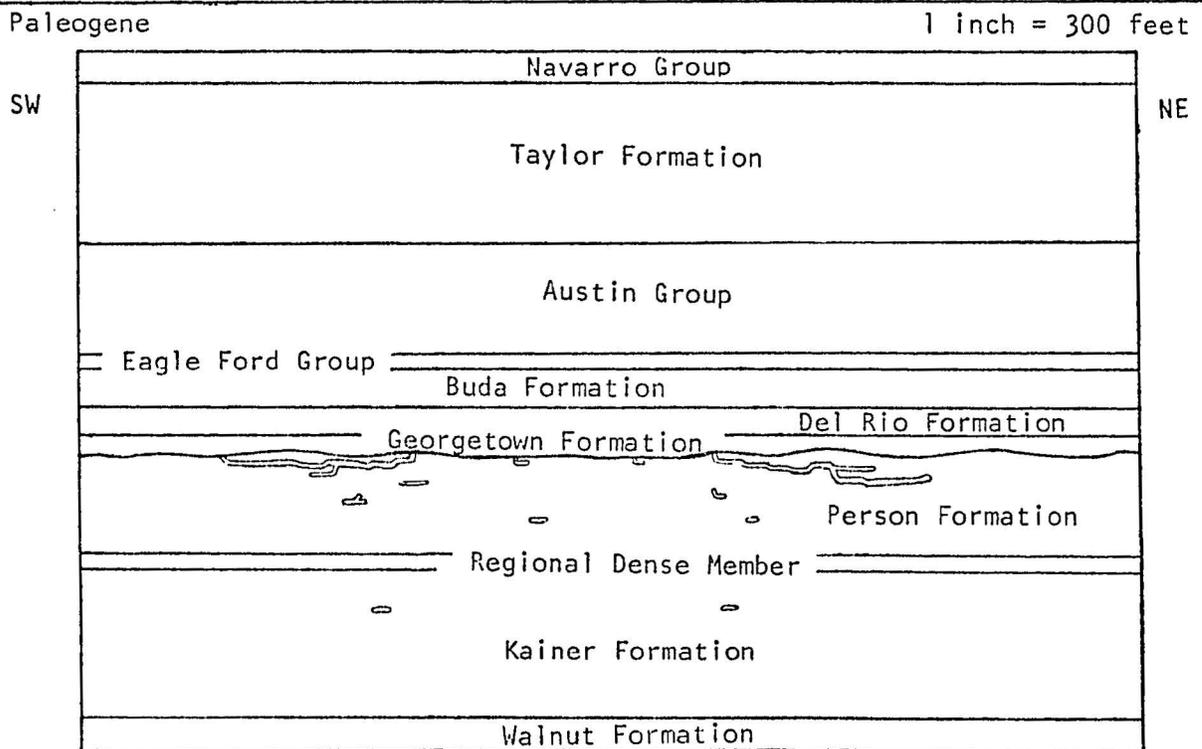
	Navarro		45-150
Gulf Series	Taylor Group		200-310
	Austin Group		140-210
	Eagle Ford Group		15- 25
	<hr/>		
Comanche Series		Buda Fm.	50- 70
	Washita Division	Del Rio Fm.	35- 55
		Georgetown Fm.	15- 30
			<hr/>
			500-850 feet

Elevation above sea level. The eastern Edwards plateau was elevated above sea level for the final time late in the Cretaceous or early in the Tertiary. Emergence was primarily due to regional upwarping of the northwestern margin of the subsiding Gulf of Mexico basin. Logic suggests that upon becoming part of the subaerial continent the Edwards Limestone would fill with calcium carbonate undersaturated, meteoric water. Because the Edwards was buried every where there would not have been discharge points that allowed establishment of a through-going water system. Thus the ground water probably equilibrated with the rock and accomplished minimal dissolution.

Fault movements along the Balcones system. The Oakville Sandstone

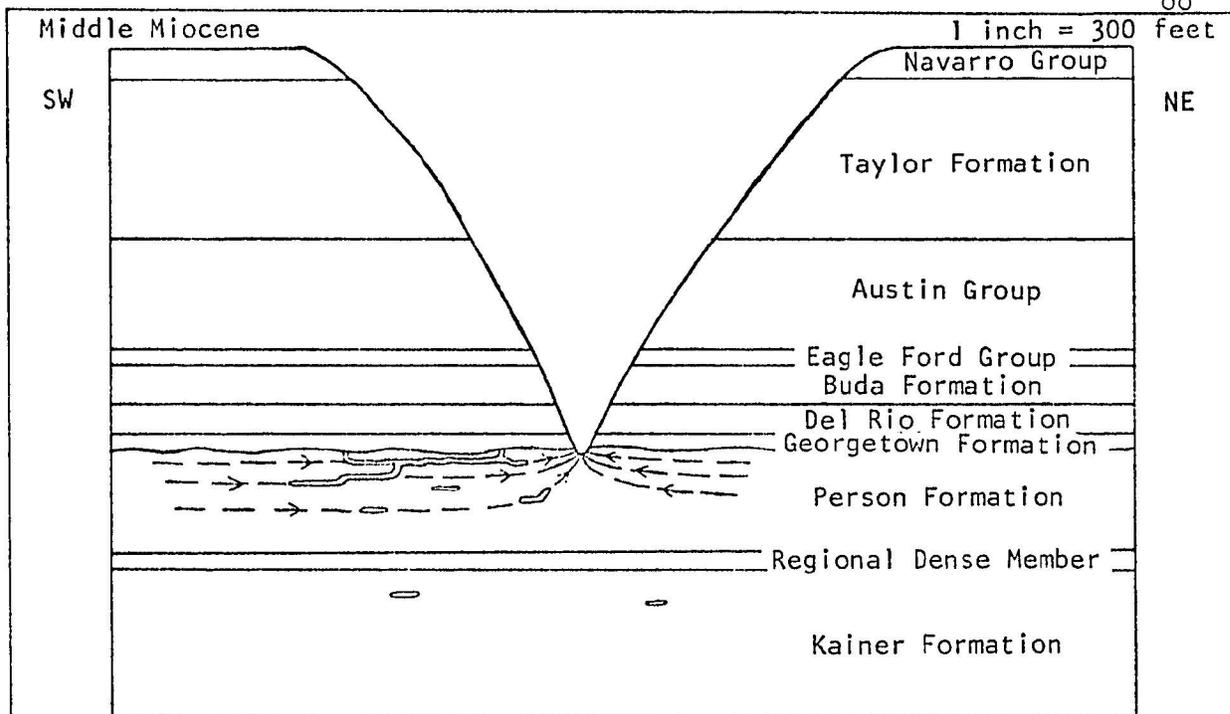


A. Subaerial exposure and erosion after deposition of Edwards Group. Subsurface dissolution most pronounced in Person Formation.

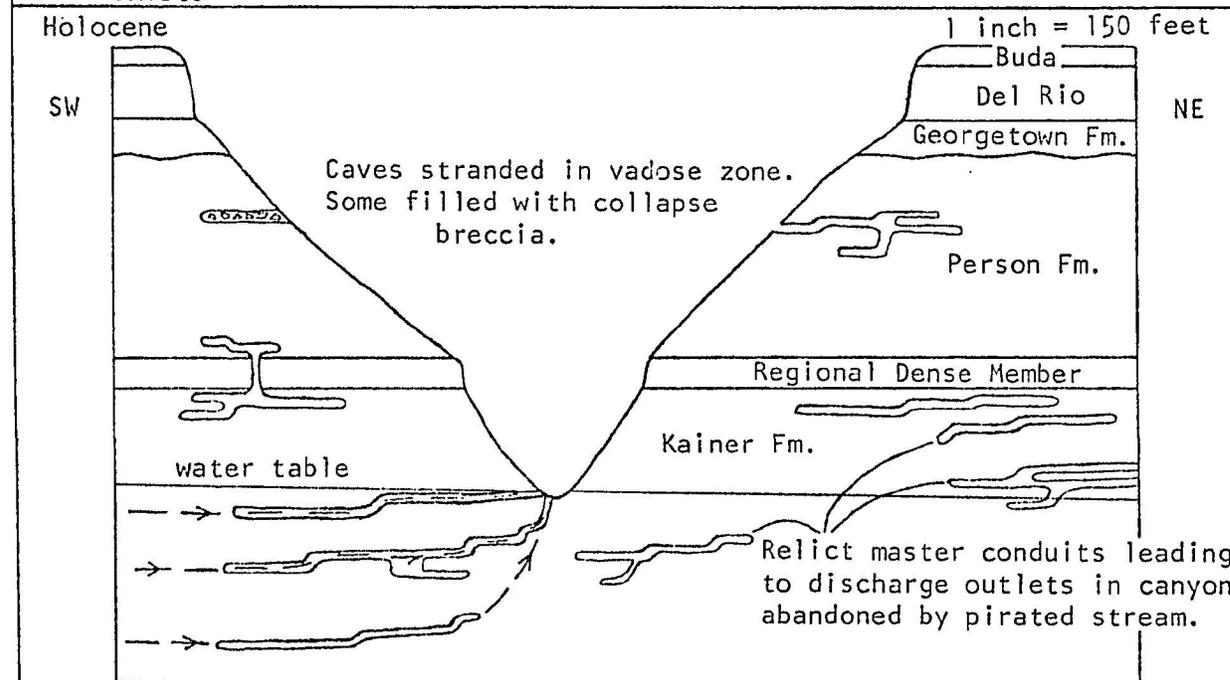


B. Edwards Group buried by about 625 feet of Washita Division and Gulf Series strata. Absence of discharge outlets precludes additional significant solution.

Figure 13. SCHEMATIC CROSS



C. Earliest outlets from Edwards underground reservoir were created when top of Person Fm. was reached by downcutting streams rejuvenated by Balcones faulting. Ground-water exiting through early discharge points solution enlarged its flowpaths in primary and secondary pore spaces, including Cretaceous Karstification, to create a pattern which still exists



D. Active discharge outlets created where modern drainage downcut and intercepted old master conduits leading to former discharge sites in abandoned stream canyon.

SECTIONS WITHIN COMAL COUNTY

(calclithite) is comprised largely of reworked Cretaceous fossils and limestone fragments. This flood of terrigenous carbonate sediment must be a by-product of significant differential relief along the Balcones faults. Mammalian bone fragments and teeth in the Oakville have been assigned to the upper Lower Miocene by Wilson (1956).

Ely (1957) studied the microfauna of the carbonate fragments within the Oakville. She identified 84 species of reworked Cretaceous forams that were eroded primarily from the Austin and Taylor Groups and secondarily from the Eagle Ford. Of added significance were several specimens of Globigerina planispira and one questionable Hastigerinella subcretacea from the Duck Creek Formation (Georgetown). The presence of Georgetown forams is important because they indicate that the most deeply incised stream valleys had almost reached the Edwards in the Early Miocene.

Effects of faulting on hydrology. Balcones faulting created escarpments that placed the low gradient, meandering, Gulfward flowing streams out of adjustment with their regional base level. The streams immediately began downcutting into incised meanders in response to the change in local base level. The increased degradation and entrenchment created strong physiographic relief with deep canyons.

When river canyons were cut down into the Edwards Group they created discharge points for the ground water. That is, the entrenched permanent streams provided sinks for a circulating ground-water body to discharge locally. The foraminiferal evidence discussed above indicates that stream canyons had already begun to reach the base of the Georgetown in the Early Miocene. Thus it seems probable that the top of the Person Formation became exposed on canyon floors later in the Miocene, possibly in

the Middle Miocene. This is an important factor in the history of development of the Edwards aquifer (figure 13C).

Creation of a cavernous aquifer in carbonate rocks requires large quantities of moving ground water. Balcones faulting created a system of discontinuous, near vertical, permeable joints that allowed surface water access to the buried Edwards Limestone. As the Gulfward flowing streams cut deeply into the eastern margin of the ancestral Edwards plateau some of these fractures, along with bedding partings and strata, were exposed on canyon floors and walls. Ground water moved through these permeable lateral conduits to the discharge points in the canyon bottoms. Movement was preferentially toward these discharge areas rather than down the structural dip.

Continuous circulation system. With initial establishment of some discharge sites there was set in motion a through-flowing ground-water system which grew in significance. No matter how fortuitously the original outlets or sinks in the Person Formation were located they received the greatest amount of ground water flow, which also means they had the most solution-enlargement that in turn funneled an ever increasing amount of ground water through these exits with a concomitant increase in dissolution, etc. Through the self-ramifying pattern of ground-water circulation in carbonate rocks the locations of many master conduits were probably established early in the history of the Edwards aquifer.

Master conduits possibly may grow headward and pirate the flow of other large conduits in analogous fashion to piracy among surface streams. The concept of master conduit capture or piracy helps explain why today only a few really large springs issue from the Edwards underground

reservoir. For instance, the copious discharge of and large geographic area drained by Comal Springs can be visualized as the result of master conduit piracy. Comal Springs issue forth at about 620 feet elevation, creating a low base level that affects hundreds of square miles. This was probably an early local master conduit that progressively captured more local master conduits by headward solution from its favored discharge elevation.

Neogene history. Cavernous porosity and permeability within the Edwards underground reservoir beneath the western margin of the Gulf coastal plain has continuously increased (figure 13D).

On the eastern Edwards plateau many of the strata overlying the Edwards Limestone have been stripped off. At the same time, the smaller tributary streams cut down to lower elevations thus acting in concert to lower the water table. As the phreatic surface dropped many of the master conduits were drained of ground-water and filled with the ground-air of the vadose zone. Bat Cave and Natural Bridge Caverns are examples of phreatic zone caverns now hosting speleothem precipitation in the vadose zone. As the water table declined and withdrew its support, and vadose seepage weakened ceiling strength, many caverns collapsed.

Much of the unroofing of master conduits and exposure as caves with surface entrances evidently occurred late in the Pleistocene as judged from vertebrate remains. The oldest fossils that have been found and dated are Sangamon skeletal parts from a cave in an abandoned Edwards Limestone quarry in northwest Austin (E. L. Lundelius, personal communication, 1972). The bulk of cave faunas are of Wisconsin or Holocene age thus showing the recency of exposure of the Edwards Limestone on the interstream areas of

the eastern Edwards plateau.

Enumeration of factors involved in development of Edwards aquifer

Herein follows a checklist of some parameters pertinent to the Edwards aquifer.

Primary porosity. Voids were present in many depositional units within the framework of rudist biolithites, between the allochems in burrows and bioclastic grainstones, within collapse breccias, and the sundry occurrences in tidal flat deposits (e.g. moldic after salt crystals, shrinkage, fenestral after stromatolites).

Solubility of rocks. The Edwards is a mass of limestone with dolomite, chert nodules, and some evaporites, but it is largely free of terrigenous sediment. A thick sequence of relatively pure carbonate rock is most amenable to dissolution and cavern development.

Paleokarst and secondary porosity. An erosional episode followed Edwards deposition. Up to 100 feet of upper Edwards is missing along the San Marcos platform. Porosity increased through solution-enlargement of primary pores, removal of many aragonite fossils, creation of vugs and channels, and some large-scale karstification especially in the surface and nearsurface Person Formation.

Stratigraphic relations. The relatively pure and soluble Edwards Limestone is sandwiched between clayey biomicrites, marls, dolomites, claystones, and other less soluble rocks. It is underlain by the marls and sandy pseudosparites of the Walnut Formation which in turn overlie the dolomitized limestones and marls of the Glen Rose Formation. Overlying the Edwards are the argillaceous biomicrites of the Georgetown Formation and the Del Rio Claystone.

Faults and associated fracture systems. The high angle, en echelon, down-to-the-coast, normal faults of the Balcones system, with its associated horde of fractures, created a myriad of discontinuous, high permeability avenues for meteoric water to enter the Edwards Limestone. The resultant uplift of the Edwards plateau placed streams out of equilibrium with oceanic base level. The ensuing degradation of the eastern Edwards plateau created steep topography and exposed the fractured Edwards Limestone in canyon bottoms.

Circulation system. There are three requisite parts of a circulation system: 1) an area of intake, 2) permeability for transmission of water, and 3) outlets for discharge. The interconnected pore spaces necessary for water movement existed as primary porosity, secondary porosity associated with the Edwards-Georgetown unconformity, and the fracture fabric of the Balcones system. The area of intake was created when the Edwards plateau was upwarped above sea level. The last requisite to be fulfilled was the need for discharge sites. This was satisfied when Balcones fault-induced erosion exposed the Person Formation in entrenched stream canyons.

Base level. Stream incision of the Edwards plateau is largely due to the effect of oceanic base level on the fault-lifted plateau. However in the solutional development of the Edwards aquifer the major base level control is that of the perennial gaining streams. That is, discharge zones are created where stream canyons intersect faults, permeable strata and bedding partings. Ground water flows toward the discharge sites and dissolution enlarges the flowpaths into cavern networks.

Ground-water flow patterns. Ground water in the Edwards Limestone

flows in severely flattened loops from recharge areas to discharge points. The amount of dissolution is roughly proportional to the volume of calcite-undersaturated ground water. The zone of greatest flow typically is thought to lie just beneath the water table where the more active solution creates master conduits which capture increasingly larger amounts of ground-water flow. The areal extent of the Edwards Limestone aquifer is so great compared to its thickness that the concept of increased flow and solution beneath the water table is not too meaningful. Cavernous porosity is developed throughout the Edwards Limestone.

Sinkholes and vertical shafts are generally considered to be products of dissolution in the vadose zone. Sinkholes probably form by cavern collapse and vertical shafts by downward percolation of water along joint intersections or collapse breccia filled pipes.

These concepts fit harmoniously with outcrop and subcrop observations of the Edwards Limestone.

Chemical character of recharge water. The meteoric water that enters the Edwards Limestone is mostly as vadose flows undersaturated with respect to calcite and dolomite. Only a slight undersaturation is necessary for cave excavation and this condition is enhanced in the shallow phreatic zone by the mixing of dissimilar waters and the flowrate effect (Thraillkill, 1968). The mixing mechanism is a significant source of undersaturation when small amounts of high P_{CO_2} vadose seepage are added to a low P_{CO_2} ground-water body like that in the Edwards Limestone. Increased undersaturation is also achieved when low ionic strength flood water is poured into the aquifer as is common in south-central Texas.

Presence of soil cover. Water that percolates down through a soil

profile is exposed to carbon dioxide concentrations ($P_{\text{CO}_2} = 10^{-1}$) about three orders of magnitude greater than the atmospheric value (Thraillkill, 1968). However the greater acidity of vadose seepage increases carbonate rock dissolution near the land surface such that these waters may reach the water table supersaturated with respect to calcite.

Rain falling on the Edwards plateau does not receive significant carbon dioxide by passing through the sparse, poorly developed soils. Percolation through the soil and entry into the phreatic zone as vadose seepage is not significant. Most recharge occurs through swallow holes in streams as low P_{CO_2} vadose flows.

Rate of ground-water circulation. The lack of tufa, dripstone, or other precipitated forms of calcium carbonate around spring orifices suggests that ground water does not reside within the aquifer long enough to equilibrate with the carbonate rock host. However, U. S. Geological Survey data show that the ground water is commonly saturated or supersaturated although the concentrations evidently do not exceed the nucleation threshold values necessary for aragonite precipitation (Robert W. Maclay, personal communication, 1973).

Volume of solvent. Greater volumes of solvent dissolve greater amounts of carbonate rock, which can in turn accept larger amounts of recharge or solvent, etc. Thus the volume of solvent and sum of solution in the Edwards aquifer has increased through time with a possible maximum rate of increase during the pluvial rains of the Pleistocene.

Temperature of ground water. Ground water temperature is approximately the same as average annual surface temperature. The warmer the water the more volatile the carbon dioxide and hence the lesser the carbonic

acid concentration. At those times of year when vadose seepage is cooled at the water table significant carbonate rock dissolution should occur (Thraillkill, 1968). Cave excavation may result with temperature fluctuations as low as one degree especially if the system is open to a carbon dioxide concentration equivalent to the atmosphere.

Presumably the pluvial rains of the Pleistocene ice ages were colder and could thus contain relatively higher carbonic acid percentages that made them more effective solvents.

Kinetics. The thermodynamics of solution and precipitation thresholds indicate that more carbonate rock may be dissolved during short periods of undersaturation than would be precipitated during longer intervals of supersaturation (Thraillkill, 1968).

APPENDIX

Measured section and core descriptions

SELMA CORE

U. S. Army Corps Engineers cored a hole 1 mile northwest of Selma, Bexar Co., Texas. Core now reposes in the Well Sample Library, Room 18b, Balcones Research Center, Univ. Texas at Austin.

Depth (feet)	
175-229	<u>DEL RIO FM.</u>
229-246	<u>GEORGETOWN FM.</u> Argillaceous sparse whole mollusc biomicrite: large oysters, snails, clams and brachiopods including <u>Kingena</u> , <u>Pecten</u> , <u>Gryphaea</u> in tan finely fragmented biomicrite matrix; 1-2% porosity with negligible permeability is in marked contrast to subjacent Edwards and its well developed solution-enlarged moldic porosity after fossils and joints, caverns, recrystallization limestone, and speleothems.
	<u>EDWARDS GROUP</u>
246-268	<u>PERSON FH.</u> Unsorted caprinid biosparite (with some microsparite): milky white to light tan; numerous caprinids, oysters, snails and fossil fragments; good porosity-- moldic after fossils, intercrystalline, vugs to 2" diameter, and slightly enlarged joints; other features: --at 254: 6" x 1.5" cavity after caprinid --at 264.5: highly porous mass of fossil fragments --at 261-268: finely crystalline calcite with voracious pinpoint porosity alternates with caprinid biosparite
268-269.5	No core
269.5-278	Clayey, burrowed sparse biomicrite: milky white to beige; burrows filled with fine fossil debris; porous-- some fractures and vugs; other features: --at 272-273: moldic porosity after caprinids
278-287.5	Dolomitic, sparse foram-fossil fragment biomicrite and microsparite with honeycombing and secondary calcite; other features: --at 278-281: brown, dense dolomite and recrystallization limestone with relict oysters and other fossils. --at 281-287.5: original dolomitic biomicrite extensively dissolved to channel megapores with secondary calcite and terra rosa infill.
287.5-296	Dolomitic rudistid biomicrite and microsparite: whitish-gray: fair to good porosity-- moldic after large fossils, slightly enlarged joints, some pinpoint and honeycomb; <u>Toucasia</u> , caprinids, oyster and other fossil fragments; other features: --at 288, 295: <u>Toucasia</u> --at 290: dark gray chert nodules
296-299	No core
299-307.5	Fossil fragment-miliolid biomicrite & biosparite: packed miliolid biomicrite lenses next to porous "chalky" texture where leaching has occurred; other features: --at 300-304: miliolid biosparite with miliolid biomicrite intraclasts --at 307: brown, dense recrystallization limestone
307.5-309.5	Recrystallization limestone: extensive honeycomb solutioning with very high porosity and permeability; partial infill with large calcite crystals and drusy linings
309.5-317.5	Unsorted biosparite and sparse biomicrite; other features: --at 309.5-312: packed biosparite with caprinids, oysters, miliolids, other forams; moldic porosity after some fossils --at 312-313: packed biosparite without rudists --at 313-317.5: mainly <u>Toucasia</u> biomicrite: some partly washed; solution-enlarged moldic porosity after caprinids, whole clams, rarely <u>Toucasia</u> ; drusy coatings; little permeability
317.5-332.5	Recrystallization limestone: dense, fine to medium crystalline limestone to extensively honeycombed; yellow limonite-stained calcite infill; other features: --at 318-324: no core --at 325: beige chert nodule --at 326-332.5: no core
332.5-337	Sparse miliolid-fossil fragment biomicrite: beige, allochems very fine, nonporous.
337-358.5	Dolomitic sparse fossil-fragment biomicrite to finely crystalline dolomite: burrowed, pinch and swell bedding; dolomite varies from slight to complete; fair to good porosity-- solution enlarged moldic after fossils with intercrystalline significant where dolomite content is higher; other features: --at 337-337.5, 338.5-339: partial siliceous replacement --at 337.5-338.5: highly porous honeycombed recrystallization limestone --at 343-344: oysters & fossil fragments in slightly dolomitic marl --at 347: dark gray chert
358.5-388	Sparse oyster-fossil fragment biomicrite: tan to beige, burrowed, marly streaks, some dolomite, upper few feet has good pinpoint porosity; other features: --at 359-361: abundant gray chert --at 362-364, 380-386: clayey streaks --at 373-379: high-spined gastropod steinkerns with spar shell casts in partly washed biomicrite --at 382-385: burrowed, some dolomite
388-404	Cavernous-recrystallized intervals within sparse oyster- <u>Toucasia</u> biomicrite: matrix lithology is same as above unit; excellent porosity-- solution enlarged moldic megapores after fossils to honeycomb to caverns; recrystallization of much matrix; some drusy infill; other features: --at 388-393: USC of E reports 4-1/2' cavern --at 392-397: oysters and <u>Toucasia</u> with vugs & honeycombing --at 397-397.5: clayey streaks --at 401-404: recrystallization limestone with extensive honeycomb solution
	<u>REGIONAL DENSE MEMBER</u>
404-427	Clayey micrite and sparse fossil-fragment & whole-mollusc biomicrite: light gray to beige; burrowed; wispy clay streaks; gray carbonaceous streaks and pods; contains clam steinkerns including <u>Pleuromya knowltoni</u> , pectens, high-spined gastropods, oysters including <u>Exogyra</u> , miliolids and other forams; distinctive marker horizon.

KAINER FM.GRAINSTONE MEMBER

- 427-467 Sorted fossil-fragment biosparite to unsorted fossiliferous intrasparite with biomicrite and recrystallization limestone: light tan; basic liths are biosparite and biomicrite but much micrite has been ripped up and redeposited as clasts; miliolids; generally good to excellent porosity-- intergranular, moldic after fossils, vugs, honeycomb, and caverns; other features:
 --at 433-435: clayey streaks
 --at 435-454: fossil fragment biosparite with intragranular, intergranular and moldic porosity up to 40%
 --at 439,445: porous, finely crystalline dolomite
 --at 447.5: medium gray chert nodules
 --at 448-449: large oysters; burrows leached to megapore vugs
 --at 454-456.5: light brown, dense micrite
 --at 458-462: coarsely crystalline limestone with extensive honeycomb network
 --at 464: caprinid, *Monopleura*
 --at 466.5: high-spired snail steinkerns
- 467-484 Sorted miliolid biosparite to sparse miliolid biomicrite: white speckled, light to medium brown; miliolids, other forams, fossil fragments; squashed micrite intraclasts; slightly porous; other features:
 --at 477-478: very sparse miliolid biomicrite wedge with apparent shrinkage cracks; micrite rip-up clasts in miliolid biosparite
 --at 478-480: partly washed miliolid biomicrite with jagged fractures; some appear as solution enlarged vertical cracks up to 1" long & 1/8" wide; this is the lithographic micrite with incipient brecciation that Rose traces throughout the Edwards Plateau
 --at 483: *Toucasia*

DOLOMITIC MEMBER

- 484-547 Cavernous recrystallization limestone developed in sparse miliolid-fossil fragment biomicrite: light gray to beige; highly cavernous; fine to very coarse recrystallized limestone with speleothems; terra rosa; other features:
 --at 484-486: finely crystalline dolomite and medium to coarse recrystallized limestone
 --at 486-490: siliceous recrystallized sparse biomicrite
 --at 522-547: occasional beige chert nodules in recrystallization limestone fragments
- 547-566 Biomicrites (upper) to biosparites (lower) with interspersed recrystallized limestones: slight to cavernous porosity; other features:
 --at 547-548, 550-552.5, 554-557: partly recrystallized, sparse miliolid-oyster fragment biomicrite
 --at 548-550, 557.5-559, 562: cavernous, medium to coarse recrystallization limestone
 --at 559-564: caprinid-oyster fragment biomicrite; some partly washed
 --at 564-566: sorted miliolid-fossil fragment biosparite; much spar leached to give good intergranular porosity
- 566-596 Cavernous recrystallization limestone developed in fossil fragment-miliolid biomicrite and biosparite: other features:
 --at 569-571: leached miliolid biosparite
 --at 589-593: sparse fossil fragment biomicrite with dolomitic burrows
- 596-624.5 Unsorted oyster-fossil fragment biosparite to sparse miliolid biomicrite: beige to light brown; burrows with fair porosity; total porosity is slight; matrix gradational from micrite to partly washed to none; other features:
 --at 598: abundant oysters in spar
 --at 624.5: siliceous oyster fragments
- 624.5-629 Cavernous, fine recrystallization limestone: light brown; some extremely coarsely crystalline calcite infill
- 629-660 Sparse fossil fragment-miliolid biomicrite with clayey, dolomitic, spar-cemented, and recrystallized intervals: light gray to light brown; porosity varies from none to porous burrows to solution enlarged with some cavernous; other features:
 --at 630,633,636: medium gray chert nodules; contain miliolids
 --at 636-637: laminated micrite and sparse biomicrite
 --at 639-640: clayey streaks
 --at 639-647: burrow mottled; non-to slightly porous
 --at 640.5-641: honeycombed, fine recrystallization limestone
 --at 647-648: cavernous
 --at 648-650: dolomitic
 --at 650-652.5: current laminated miliolid biomicrite and intraclastic oyster biosparite
 --at 652.5-654: recrystallized miliolid biomicrite; solution enlarged fractures
 --at 656-658: stylolitic
 --at 658-660: oysters
 --at 660: solution-enlarged moldic porosity after a large caprinid just above a honeycombed recrystallization limestone; USC of E places the Edwards-Glen Rose contact here.

WALNUT FM.

- 660-677 Sparse mixed fossil biomicrite: light gray to orangish-beige; dolomitic to dolomitized; fair to good porosity in upper 9 feet-- intergranular with some solution-enlarged moldic after fossils and some vugs: burrowed; other features:
 --at 660-666: heavily dolomitized burrowed miliolid biomicrite with very good microvugular porosity
 --at 666-669: whole oysters and snails in dolomitized clam fragment biomicrite matrix; pronounced burrows; would weather to nodular marl
 --at 669-671: many clay stringers; nonporous; weakly resistant
 --at 671-677: some clayey wisps; dolomitic burrows; mottled; nonporous
- 677-711.5 Argillaceous oyster-fossil fragment biomicrite: medium gray to bluish gray; dolomitic beds and patches; carbonaceous; stylolitic; burrowed; some calcite-lined megapore vugs; other features:
 --at 694-697: large whole oysters
 --at 702-703, 705: abundant *Exogyra* valves and clam & high-spired snail steinkerns
 --at 707: medium gray dense dolomite
 --at 709-711.5: marly interval loaded with *Exogyra texana*

711.5

GLEN ROSE FM.

Punky, porous finely crystalline dolomite

RANDOLPH AFB CORE

U. S. Geological Survey cored a hole next to Randolph AFB on FM 1604 about 3.7 miles southeast of its intersection with 135. Location is just southwest across the street from Randolph High School.

Depth
(feet)

604-621.5 GEORGETOWN FM.

Clayey sparse biomicrite: would weather to nodular limestone and marl; light bluish gray; abundant small pyrite crystals; upper 8 feet is heavily burrowed and fauna is mainly snaggletooth oysters in finely crunched biomicrite matrix; lower 9.5 feet has many clayey seams unbroken by burrowers and better whole faunal preservation--Kingena, Gryphaea, other oysters, clam and snail steinkerns, pectens, and ostracods; nonporous; other features:
--at 620.1-620.5: several small megapore vugs and small fractures with drusy calcite
--at 621.5: uppermost Edwards is a partly recrystallized Toucasia - miliolid limestone with an angular etched upper surface of 1/4 to 1/2 inch amplitude; pyritic Georgetown material fills in the relief

EDWARDS GROUPPERSON FM.

- 621.5-634 Recrystallized miliolid grainstone: carbonaceous--large hunks to thin wispy laminae to dead oil accumulations; common Toucasia and fossil fragments; some former sparse biomicrite; some burrowing; fair porosity--intergranular and drusy lined megapore vugs; diagenetic mineralization undecipherable with hand lens; other features:
--at 624-625: clay stringers and carbonaceous stylolites
--at 628-629: hydrocarbon saturated Toucasia--miliolid grainstone
- 634-656.5 Toucasia - caprinid biolithite and talus grainstone: hydrocarbon stain common; carbonaceous hunks and stylolites; large caprinids, dish-plate oysters, rudaceous snail & clam steinkerns, abundant fossil fragments; good porosity--moldic after caprinids and fossil fragments, some interparticle porosity; different diagenetic history than outcrop Edwards--very fine interparticle carbonate often present even after framework fossils leached, interparticle euhedral crystals, and some material as resistant as Toucasia shell is now coarsely crystalline calcite
- 656.5-682 Finely to medium crystalline dolomite: after sparse miliolid-fossil fragment biomicrite and thinly bedded intraclastic mixed fossil grainstones; wavy thin carbonaceous laminae & chunks and disseminated hydrocarbons; good porosity--intercrystalline and moldic after small fossil fragments; other features:
--at 657-657.5, 677-677.7: wavy stromatolitic interval--irregular erosion surfaces, breccia, and calcite filled fenestral porosity
--at 659.5: large megapore vug in fracture complex with extremely coarsely crystalline calcite crystals
--at 662.5-662.8: junky brecciated condensed zone with carbonaceous fragments
--at 662.8-664.4: beautiful collapse breccia--unsorted angular hunks of fine dolomite partly cemented by extremely coarsely crystalline calcite
--at 665-667.5: dolomitized miliolid-oyster fragment biosparite cut by scour surface with 2-1/2 inches relief; overlain by thinly bedded sparse biomicrite and grainstone with rustid debris
--at 667.5-672.5: some fossil molds and vugs filled with bluish calcite
--at 672.5-676, 678-679, 679.5-680: flint--highly irregular borders
--at 672.5-677: relict flaser-like bedding with some small burrows
--at 681-682: dolomitized intraclastic fossil fragment grainstone; vuggy; calcite snail steinkerns; few burrows
- 682-691 Toucasia - caprinid biolithite and intraclastic fossil fragment grainstone: biolithite with recrystallized fossil fragment biomicrite matrix; grainstone has Toucasia, caprinids, clams, oysters, miliolids and fossil fragments; dolomitic in part; hydrocarbon stained; interframework calcite crystals; fair porosity--moldic after fossils megapore vugs, shelter, and small near vertical fractures; other features:
--at 682-685: some small flint nodules
- 691-702 Finely to medium crystalline dolomite: light brown due to disseminated hydrocarbons; carbonaceous bits, pieces and laminae; good porosity--intercrystalline, moldic after fossils and vugs; other features:
--at 691.4-695: dolomite after whole mollusc packstone; large megapore vugs and a 1-1/2 inch horizontal separation with extremely coarse calcite crystals
--at 695-695.6, 696-698: oyster, Toucasia and other fragments in relict burrowed biomicrite and grainstone
--at 698-702: flint with highly irregular boundaries
- 702-709.5 Toucasia biolithite and miliolid-fossil fragment grainstone: interparticle material is very fine grunge; many fossil fragments are dissolved and gone; poor to fair porosity--some large megapore vugs with very coarse calcite crystals
- 709.5-721.5 Medium crystalline dolomite: light to medium brown due to hydrocarbon staining; punky; several flint horizons--relict texture is dolomite with Toucasia and oyster fragments; lower part cut by many calcite veinlets; other features:
--at 710: very large oysters
--at 713.5-716: moldic porosity after clams & snails; vugular
--at 718-720.5: caprinid biolithite
- 721.5-730.2 Recrystallized miliolid-fossil fragment grainstone & wackestone: dense carbonate encrustation on grains--then grains sometimes removed; fair porosity--moldic near top; carbonaceous stylolites; other features:
--at 721.5-723: caprinid-dishplate oyster biolithite
--at 723-726: grainstone--caprinids, mollusc steinkerns, oysters, miliolids, fossil fragments
--at 729.5: dolomite interbed
- 730.2-751.5 Medium crystalline dolomite: light to dark brown from varying oil saturations; wispy carbonaceous stringers; good intercrystalline porosity; small calcite healed fractures; other features:
--at 730.2-733: heavily oil stained
--at 730.5, 733.5-734.5: junked up breccia zones
--at 733.6, 736.4, 746: flint nodules
--at 736-736.3: wavy stromatolites with intercalated thin breccias
--at 737-738: random pattern of bluish calcite healed fractures
--at 740.6-740.9: oyster and carbonaceous rich
--at 742-744: resistant light gray dense dolomite patches
--at 748-750: bluish-white calcite filling fossil molds and vugs

- 751.5-755.5 Toucasia biolithite overlain by recrystallized, dolomitic, burrowed fossil fragment grainstone-wackestone: oysters, miliolids; carbonaceous stylolites; dense
- 755.5-762 Medium crystalline dolomite: light to medium brown; wispy carbonaceous laminae; punky; good porosity--intercrystalline and moldic after fossil fragments; other features:
--at 755.5-756.5: Toucasia biolithite
- 762-780.5 Recrystallized dolomitic fossiliferous grainstone-wackestone: Interframework material is usually dense, Inscrutable (to the hand lens), very fine diagenetic carbonate; miliolids, oyster and other fragments; much looks lensey and subtidal; poor porosity; other features:
--at 763.5-764.5: microfaults and breccia
--at 774.5: Toucasia, clams, carbonaceous hunks
--at 774.5-780.5: large megapore vugs with calcite crystals; interframework crystals also
- 780.5-789: Caprinid biolithite to rudist grainstone-wackestone: dolomitized in part; some dense very fine interframework gunk; calcite crystals growing randomly through rock; carbonaceous stringers; Toucasia; other features:
--at 784, 785: flint including caprinid mold
- 789-805 Recrystallized fossil fragment grainstone-wackestone and dolomite: hydrocarbon stain and thin carbonaceous stringers; miliolids, Toucasia, oyster and other fragments; calcite crystals growing randomly; variable porosity; other features:
--at 790.8, 791.5, 804.5: flint
--at 791: dense fractured layer
--at 794, 797.5, 798.2: quartz crystal clusters growing into megapore vugs
--at 800.8-805: dense, nonporous
- 805-810 Medium crystalline dolomite: light to medium brown; oil stained; good porosity--intercrystalline and moldic after fossil fragments; small calcite healed fractures; other features:
--at 805-806.5: heavy oil staining--earthy looking; carbonaceous fragments and stringers
--at 807.3-810: bluish calcite fills some large megapore vugs, oyster and fossil fragment molds
- 810-830.5 REGIONAL DENSE MEMBER
Clayey sparse biomicrite: dense; nonpermeable; little carbonaceous fragments with pyrite drusy; purer carbonate intervals are slightly dolomitic; flaser bedding aspect; whole clams & snails with fragments; other features:
--at 811.2-812, 817-817.2, 820: very clayey
--at 818-818.3: partly washed miliolid-snail biomicrite
--at 822-830: homogeneously lensed--gray & white mottles on light brown background; wispy clay stringers unbroken by burrowers
- KAINER FM.
- 830.5-871 Miliolid-fossil fragment grainstone: on the outcrop these rocks are textbook biosparites--the core has identical allochems but instead of sparry calcite cement there is a dense very finely crystalline carbonate that resists acidizing better than the fossils; some faceted calcite and dolomite crystals have grown in intergranular porosity; miliolids, oysters, highspired snails, caprinids, and fossil fragments; finely crystalline intraclasts; wispy carbonaceous laminae, chunks, and stylolites; usually light brown from disseminated hydrocarbons; fair porosity--intergranular, some moldic after fossils, and some large megapore vugs with extremely coarse calcite crystals; other features:
--at 830.5: caprinid
--at 847.5-848: blue-green algal trapping of small grains
--at 850.5-871: some intercalated thin beds and lenses of miliolid wackestone and packstone with a few burrows
--at 862.5: flint
- 871-879.5 Dolomitized grainstone-wackestone: dolomitized thin-bedded miliolid grainstones and sparse miliolid-oyster & other fragment biomicrite; some burrowing in wackestones; carbonaceous laminae; calcite healed fractures; fair porosity--intercrystalline and vugular; other features:
--at 871-874: ramifying calcite veins
--at 874: odd mosaic of megapore vugs
--at 874-876: flint nodules
- 879.5-897 Miliolid grainstone: prolific miliolids with fossil fragments; micrite intraclasts; fair porosity--intergranular with pretty calcite crystals growing in voids; other features:
--at 879.5-891: sorted miliolid-fossil fragment grainstone
--at 891-894.2: unsorted grainstone--miliolids, large snail & clam steinkerns; cement is clear mucilaginous-looking glaze of calcite
--at 894.2-897: unsorted intraclastic miliolid grainstone with dense, gray, very sparse biomicrite layers
- 897-918 Finely to medium crystalline dolomite: light to medium brown; fair to good intercrystalline porosity; other features:
--at 897-98: many carbonaceous laminae; recrystallized oysters, Toucasia
--at 899, 900, 902: flint
--at 899-903: ramifying bluish calcite veinlets, vug fillings, and random crystals
--at 901-901.5: caprinids and whole clams
--at 903-904, 908.8-909.3, 917.5-918: nonporous, dolomitized miliolid grainstone
--at 904-904.5: dolomitized blue-green algal head with breccia
--at 904.5-908: poor recovery
--at 908-917.5: dolomite after thinly bedded, unburrowed sparse biomicrite with some relict packstone-grainstone
- 918-934 Dolomitized miliolid-fossil fragment grainstone: miliolids, some snails, clams, oyster & other fragments; parts are thinly bedded and burrows are scarce; carbonaceous laminae; nonporous to poor-fair porosity--intercrystalline, vugular, and some short gashy fractures; other features:
--at 918-920: large megapore vugs elongate parallel to bedding--enlarged after clams?; some brecciation
--at 920-920.7, 927-929, 931.5-933: dense dolomite after sparse fossil fragment biomicrite
--at 924-925: dense and nonporous
--at 933.5: snail-rich coquina

- 934-966.5 Finely to medium crystalline dolomite and dolomitized wackestone-grainstone: mostly tidal flat deposits--thinly bedded with few burrows, stromatolites, and breccias; carbonaceous laminae; nonporous to fair-good porosity--intercrystalline, vuggy, moldic after fossil fragments, and partly healed small fractures; vugs with partial calcite crystal infill; other features:
 --at 934.2, 951.5-952, 958-958.5, 960-964: breccia
 --at 936.5, 948.4, 955-955.6, 958-958.5, 962: flint nodules; some with gashy vertical fractures
 --at 936.5-937, 940.2-941.2: oyster-rich layers
 --at 937-938: dolomite after sparse rudaceous whole mollusc biomicrite
 --at 946.3: dense finely crystalline dolomite with near vertical gashy shrinkage fractures
 --at 957-957.5, 960-962.2: stromatolitic
 --at 958-958.5: disastrous breccia texture and oddly shaped chert
 --at 958.5-960: dense, nonporous, dolomitized thinly bedded small fossil fragment grainstone
 --at 960-962.2: pretty, semi-stratified dolomite breccia
 --at 962.2-964, 966-966.5: ugly brecciated dolomite with "famifying bluish calcite areas"
- 966.5-971.5 Cherty unsorted fossiliferous grainstone: other features:
 --at 966.5-968: unsorted coquina--large clams & snails with small fragments; fossils dissolved away leaving moldic porosity in dense very fine carbonate interframework
 --at 968-971.5: dense dolomitized grainstone--many tiny fossil fragments with some large oysters; few burrows; carbonaceous laminae in bunches
- 971.5-976.5 Medium to finely crystalline dolomite: beige; largely after sparse fossil fragment biomicrite; thin to thick wavy laminae; few relict intraclasts; good porosity--intercrystalline and moldic after small fossil fragments; other features:
 --at 971.8: burrow mottling
 --at 972.6, 972.8, 974.2, 974.8, 975.7: thin carbonaceous laminae; sometimes oyster rich
 --at 973-975: near vertical fractures; slightly enlarged
 --at 973.6: silicified interval- 0 to 2 inches thick
- 976.5-978 No core
- 978-982.5 Dolomitic miliolid-oyster grainstone: several few inch thick oyster placers; poor to fair interparticle porosity; other features:
 --at 978.1: carbonaceous interval
 --at 979.1: flint layer - 1 inch thick
- 982.5-986 Finely to medium crystalline dolomite: beige; thin to thick irregular laminae--no burrowing; relict intraclasts; good porosity--intercrystalline, moldic after small fossil fragments and small snails & clams, vertical fracture with calcite crystals; other features:
 --at 982.5-982.9: thin wavy carbonaceous laminae
 --at 985.5-985.7: intraclastic oyster placer with calcite infilled fenestral porosity
- 986-990.5 Dolomitized miliolid-oyster grainstone: some was originally wackestone and packstone; several 1 to 3 inch oyster-rich shell layers resting on scoured miliolid-fossil fragment biomicrite; other features:
 --at 987.5: very carbonaceous interval
- 990.5-996 Finely to medium crystalline dolomite: light tannish gray; some intraclastic layers; some burrowing; fossil fragments crunched smaller than usual; irregular cross-cutting depositional lenses; some thin unburrowed laminae; fair to good porosity--mostly intercrystalline, some moldic after small fossil fragments; other features:
 --at 991.8-992, 993.9-994, 994.7-994.9: carbonaceous laminae
 --at 993-994.5: dolomitized small fossil fragment grainstone with many oysters
 --at 995-995.5: three shades of gray show burrowed fossil fragment wackestone brecciated by dessication
- 996-1002 Coquina: bioclastic grainstone with pieces of caprinids, oysters, clams, snails, echinoids, miliolids, Toucasia, bryozoa, etc.; dolomitic; some burrowing; good interparticle porosity; other features:
 --at 1000.5-1001: caprinid biolithite with Toucasia
- 1002-1008.7 Medium crystalline dolomite: irregular thin layers unbroken by burrowers; good porosity--intercrystalline with some moldic after fossil fragments and mostly healed thin fractures; other features:
 --at 1002.2, 1002.9, 1004.5-4.9: carbonaceous laminae
 --at 1002.4, 1008.7: flint lenses up to 1/2 inch thick
 --at 1002.9-4.0: dolomitic intraclasts and snail steinkerns dominating shell placer lenses
 --at 1004-5: stromatolite interval evidenced by very thin crinkly laminae around blotched texture
 --at 1005.0-5.8: boxwork and breccia with large megapore vugs--evaporite supratidal deposit
- 1008.7-1013 Very finely intercalated carbonaceous and finely crystalline dolomite laminae: poor porosity; other features:
 --at 1012-1013: some burrow mottling
- 1013-1028 Medium crystalline dolomite: beige & gray; alternates from burrowed to finely laminated (sometimes carbonaceous) to shell fragment placers; good porosity--intercrystalline and moldic after small fossil fragments; other features:
 --at 1013-1018, 1019-1020: many burrows with abundant small fossil fragments and some small clams
 --at 1018-1019, 1025-1028: fine laminae undisturbed by burrowers
 --at 1020, 1022.0-22.5, 1024.5-25.0, 1027.5-28.0: numerous thin carbonaceous laminae
 --at 1020.0-21.5, 1022.5-23.0: odd mottling; possible cyanophyta horizons
 --at 1021.5-22.0, 1023.2-25.5: dolomitic miliolid-oyster-fossil fragment coquina lenses
- 1028-1038.5 Dolomitic sparse fossil fragment biomicrite: some recrystallization; burrow mottled--fossil fragments even finer than usual; subtidal; poor porosity; other features:
 --at 1028-28.5, 1031.2-31.5, 1037.0-37.8: many thin carbonaceous laminae; stylolites
- 1038.5-1040 Medium to finely crystalline dolomite: finely xline gray dolomite cut by large burrows filled by medium xline beige dolomite with moldic porosity after fossil fragments; good porosity
- 1040-1045 Dolomitized coquina: layers of abundant high-spired snail steinkerns, oysters and other fossil fragments; some placers are burrowed; good interparticle porosity
- 1045-1047.8 Finely crystalline dolomite: brownish gray; numerous small bluish flint nodules--relict texture shows dolomitized fossil fragment grainstone; good intercrystalline porosity
- 1047.8-1059 Dolomitized fossil fragment coquina: mostly grainstone but some was probably packstone or wackestone; dolomitic intraclasts; coquina includes Toucasia, clams, snails, oysters, bryozoa, echinoids, miliolids, and other debris; mostly in irregular layers around 1 inch thick; good interparticle porosity with some moldic and intercrystal-

- line; other features:
 --at 1048.2: flint lense
 --at 1049.5-50.0: Monopleura bunches
 --at 1050.5, 52.2, 52.8: carbonaceous stylolites
 --at 1050.5-51.5, 1055.5-56.0, 1057.0-57.2: Toucasia boundstone with Monopleura
 --at 1053-54: incipient vertical fractures
- 1059-1073.5 Medium to finely crystalline dolomite: variegated lensoidal bedding and thin wavy laminae in former packstone-wackestone sequence without large burrows--cf. flaser bedding; some were shell fragment grainstone lenses; good intercrystalline porosity; other features:
 --at 1060-62.5, 1065.0-65.5, 1066, 1067-68, 1069-70: bluish chert with relict fossil fragments
 --at 1072.7-73.2: stromatolite--intraclastic mess
 --at 1071-73.5: some thin wavy carbonaceous laminae
- 1073.5-1074.5 Finely crystalline dolomite: very finely laminated with numerous carbonaceous stringers; no burrowers; several near vertical fractures but without solution enlargement
- 1074.5-1096.5 Dolomitized fossil fragment grainstone with wackestone and packstone: diverse fossil debris including rudistids; thinly bedded dolomicrite to intraclastic coquina; some burrowing--often characteristic medium brown in light beige or gray; good porosity--mainly intercrystalline with moldic and interparticle; very thin carbonaceous laminae; small near vertical fractures with slight enlargement; other features:
 --at 1076-77: flint nodules in gray finely crystalline dolomite
 --at 1077-79, 1081.5-86: typical Comanche Peak-like lith--medium brown dolomitized burrows in light brown dolomitic fossil fragment matrix; dolomicrite intraclasts at angles to bedding; few vugs; caprinid debris
 --at 1079-80: thinly bedded fine dolomite to snail coquina layers; no burrowers; high intertidal
 --at 1080-81.5, 1087.5-96.5: fossil fragment coquina--some snail-rich with larger fragments but most with very small fossil fragments
- 1096.5-1122 Medium crystalline dolomite: poor recovery interval; other features:
 --at 1096.5-1103: about 2 feet rock fragments recovered--brown dolomite with grayish mottles; good intercrystalline and moldic porosity after unsorted fossil fragments
 --at 1103-1112: about 5 feet recovered core--probably dolomitized fossil fragment wackestone; some gashy near vertical fractures; some carbonaceous laminae
 --at 1112-1122: about 5 feet recovered--upper 2 feet as above; middle foot a dolomitized small fossil fragment packstone; bottom 2 feet with resistant gray mottles in usual brown dolomite; some wavy carbonaceous laminae
- 1122-1142 Dolomitized burrowed biomicrite and rudist biolithite: some large oysters--Exogyra texana?, clams, snails, rudists and fossil fragments; nonporous to poor porosity--small and large megapore vugs with calcite crystals and numerous unenlarged small fractures; other features:
 --at 1122-1125: dolomitized, carbonaceous and clayey seamed, sparse oyster biomicrite
 --at 1125-1131: mottled texture--resistant gray dolomitized blotches with softer brown dolomite burrows
 --at 1131-1134: dolomitized caprinid biolithite with Toucasia in same mottled texture as above
 --at 1136: Toucasia in same resistant gray and weak brown mottled texture
 --at 1138-1140: Toucasia with large snails and oysters; probable biolithite around 1139
 --at 1140-1142: dolomitized, burrowed, sparse oyster biomicrite; contact with Walnut very gradational and arbitrary
- 1142-1183.7 WALNUT FH.
 Dolomitic sparse Exogyra texana-BRB biomicrite: BRB's (black rotund bodies of Ted Small, U.S.G.S., San Antonio) are presumably little fossil fragments colored by impregnation with reduced, black, finely divided iron; burrow mottled to flaser bedded; bunches of thin clayey and carbonaceous seams are common; more resistant (purer?) limestone layers are dolomitic to dolomitized; stylolitic; some mottled texture as above--gray resistant sparse BRB biomicrite cut by weak brown dolomite burrows; poor porosity--some very large megapore vugs, slightly solution enlarged vugs after snails, enlargement of small fractures; other features:
 --at 1152-55: dolomitic BRB & other fossil fragment grainstone with burrows
 --at 1159.5-60.2: burrowed miliolid-fossil fragment grainstone
 --at 1161: dense, gray, finely crystalline dolomite interbed
 --at 1162-62.7: punky fine dolomite; brecciated and vuggy in part
 --at 1181.7-82.4: abundant large snails and miliolids
- GLEN ROSE FH.
- 1183.7-1192 (bottom of hole) Finely to medium crystalline dolomite: orangish-brown to medium brown; dolomite after intraclastic miliolid grainstone, sparse miliolid-fossil fragment biomicrite and sparse whole mollusc biomicrite; some calcite healed fractures; good porosity--intercrystalline, moldic after fossils, fracture, and small-large megapore vugs with extremely coarsely crystalline calcite lining

NEW BRAUNFELS CORE

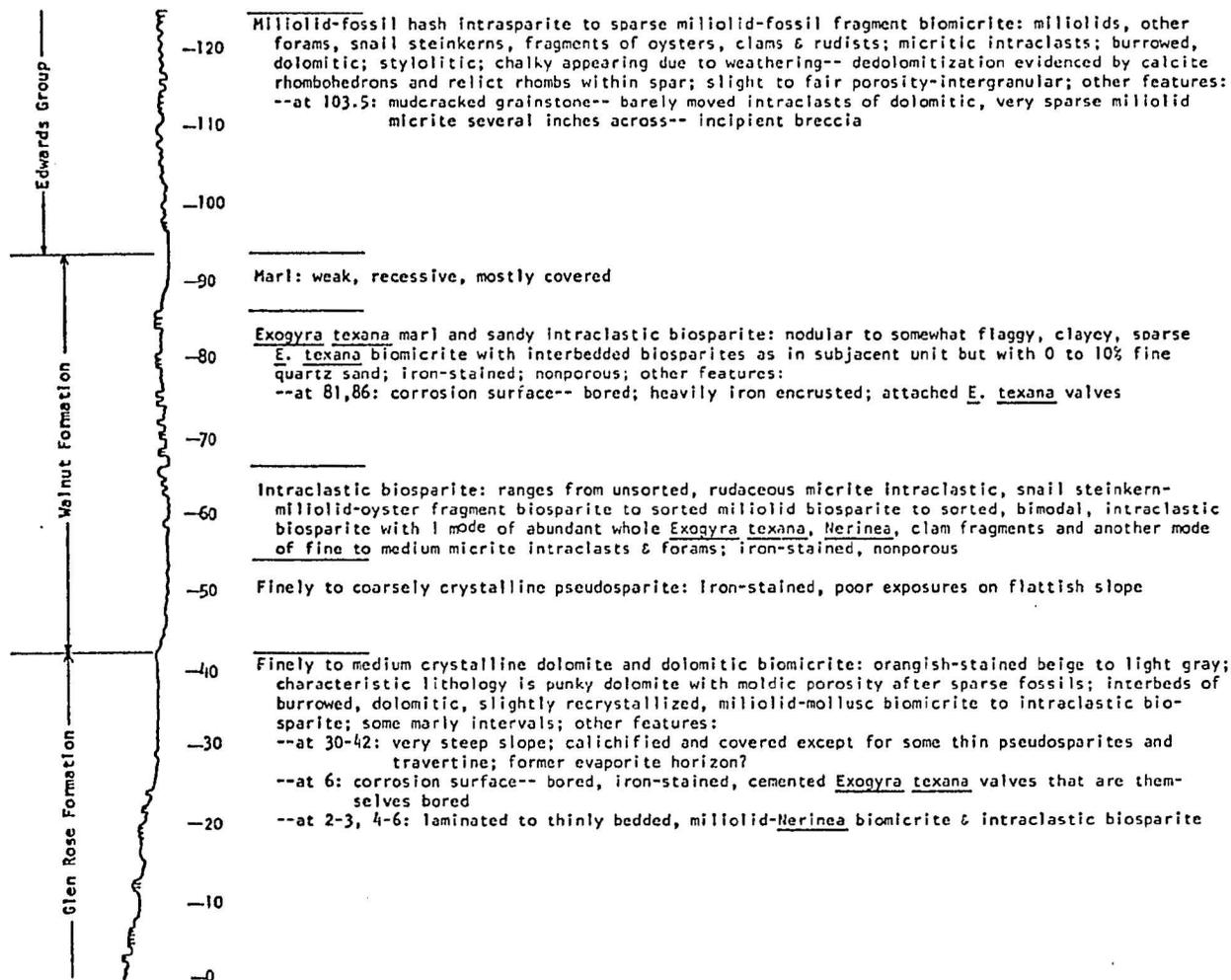
Texas Water Development Board Core DX-2 was drilled northwest of New Braunfels along FM 1863 about 1.6 miles west of its intersection with Highway 46. The hole started at 937 feet elevation and the interval cored was 275 to 432 feet below surface. The way the core is numbered and boxed it seems possible that some pieces are out of sequence. Core is now stored in the Well Sample Library, Room 18b, Balcones Research Center, Univ. Texas at Austin.

Depth
(feet)

<u>EDWARDS GROUP</u>	
275-298	Fine-medium recrystallization limestone: primarily after sparse fossil fragment biomicrite; beige; dense; slight to good porosity--intercrystalline, meso- to megapore channels, solution-enlarged fractures; other features: --at 275-276, 282, 286, 293-297: channel porosity with some coarsely crystalline calcite infill and terra rosa --at 277-278, 283, 289, 293: bioclastic grainstone to fossil fragment coquina--oysters, snails, clams, miliolids --at 278-280, 290, 297-298: medium crystalline granular calcite framework with good intercrystalline porosity --at 287.5: chert; liesegang banded
298-309	Caprinid biolithite: matrix varies from medium recrystallization limestone to unsorted mixed-fossil grainstone; fauna includes dish-plate oysters, <u>Toucasia</u> , snail steinkerns, caprinids, clams, forams, echinoid and other debris; brittle; tannish-gray; moldic porosity after caprinids and mollusc fragments
309-313	Unsorted to sorted intraclastic biosparite: snail steinkerns, oyster & clam fragments, <u>Toucasia</u> , miliolids & fossil debris; moldic porosity after fossils; some megapore vugs
313-330	Recrystallized sparse to packed biomicrite: parts were grainstone; dense; beige; oysters, miliolids & fossil fragments; non- to slightly porous--some moldic after fossil fragments, few small mesopore vugs; other features: --at 316-328: poor recovery--solution zone suggested by iron-stained, more heavily recrystallized rock fragments --at 329.5: unsorted fossil fragment coquina
330-348.5	Coquina: mixed fossil grainstone of oysters, pectens, clams, snails, miliolids, abundant fossil fragments; fair to good moldic & interparticle porosity; other features: --at 332: chert --at 336: thin, dish-plate sized oysters
348.5-371	Sparse biomicrite: dense; beige; burrowed; miliolids, oyster and other fossil fragments; nonporous to cavernous; other features: --at 348.5-353, 354-362: poor recovery suggests caverns --at 349, 365.5, 367.5, 368.5: finely crystalline dolomite --at 363, 365.5, 368.5-370: megapore channels and vugs; some with terra rosa and calcite drusy --at 367: miliolid intrasparite with chert
371-375	Coquina: fossil fragments--oysters, clams, caprinid tubes, <u>Toucasia</u> , echinoids, and others; miliolids, dasyclads; fair to good interparticle and moldic porosity
375-390	Recrystallized fossiliferous wackestone-packstone-grainstone: varying amounts of fossil debris--some crumbly coquina but mostly burrowed sparse biomicrite; fair to excellent porosity--solution enlarged fractures; channels; intergranular in burrows and coquina; other features: --at 375, 379.5-380, 386-388: megapore channels with terra rosa --at 388-390: dolomitic, recrystallized limestone
390-402	Fossiliferous grainstone with dolomite and biomicrite interbeds: miliolids, dasyclads, snails, oysters, clams, echinoid and other debris; burrows; intraclastic; fair to excellent porosity--interparticle, moldic after fossils and burrows, intercrystalline, channel, bedding surface and near vertical fractures, small megapore vugs; other features: --at 391: dolomitized burrows --at 392.5-394, 396-397: finely crystalline dolomite after fossil fragment grainstone; small megapore vugs standing roughly vertical and shaped like gypsum crystals --at 396, 401: channels developed in burrows
402-410	Cavernous zone suggested by poor recovery and rounded rock fragments: other features: --at 402, 408: recrystallized burrowed fossil fragment grainstone --at 405, 407, 409: finely crystalline dolomite with relict small fossil fragments
410-432	Finely crystalline dolomite to dolomitic clayey burrowed biomicrite: light to medium gray; slightly to very clayey--emphasized by wavy laminae and flaser bedding; quite carbonaceous; mottled and punky--would form marly nodular recessive slopes; oyster and other fragments; slight to good porosity--intercrystalline, moldic after fossil fragments and clams, small fractures, and some large mesopore vugs; other features: --at 414-417: dolomitized caprinid biolithite with <u>Toucasia</u>

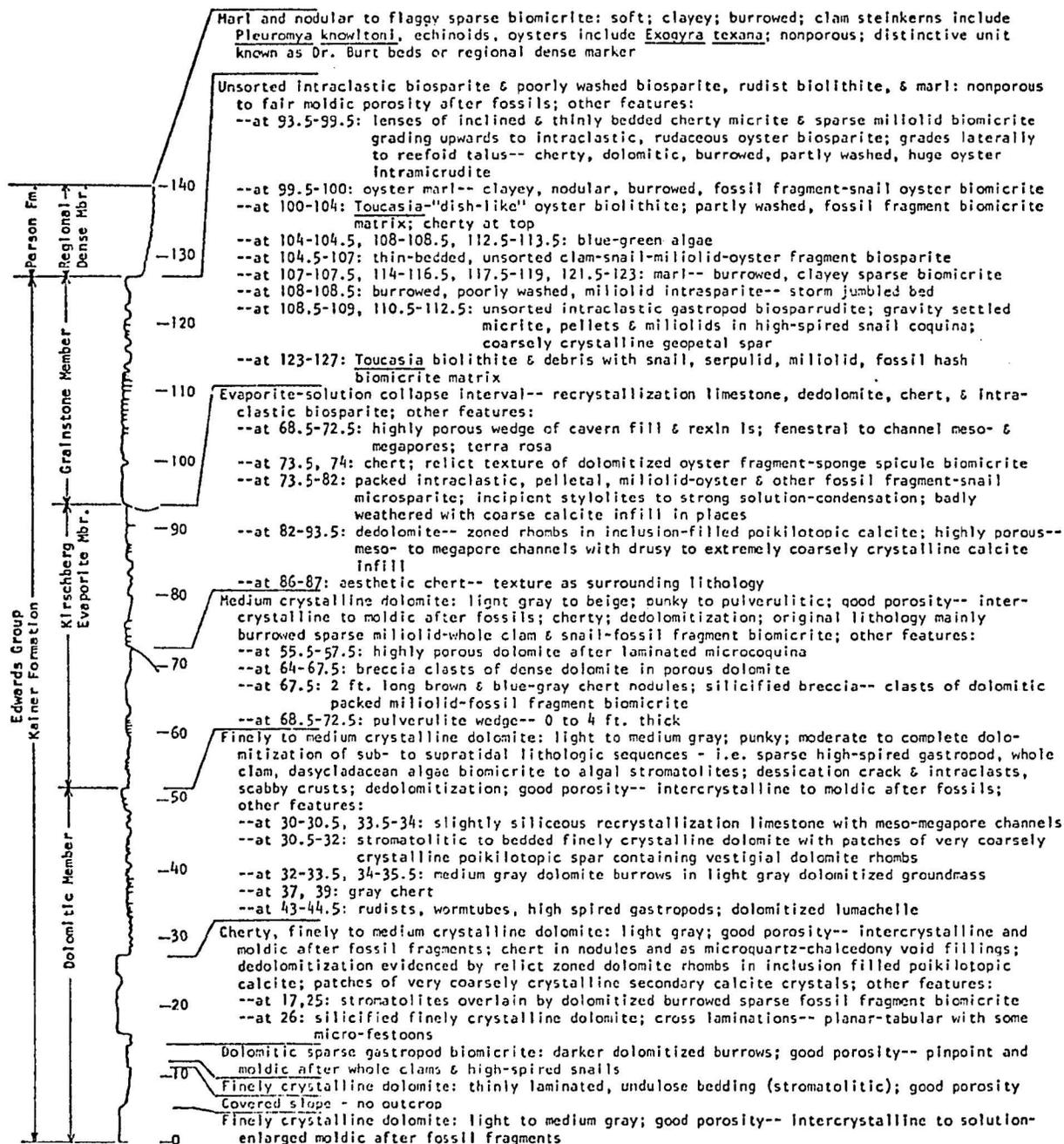
BULVERDE PEAK SECTION

Located on the old E. D. Uecker ranch off Smithson Valley Road
In the northeast section of Bulverde quadrangle, Bexar Co.
Section measured along dirt road heading west than north to top
of Bulverde Peak.



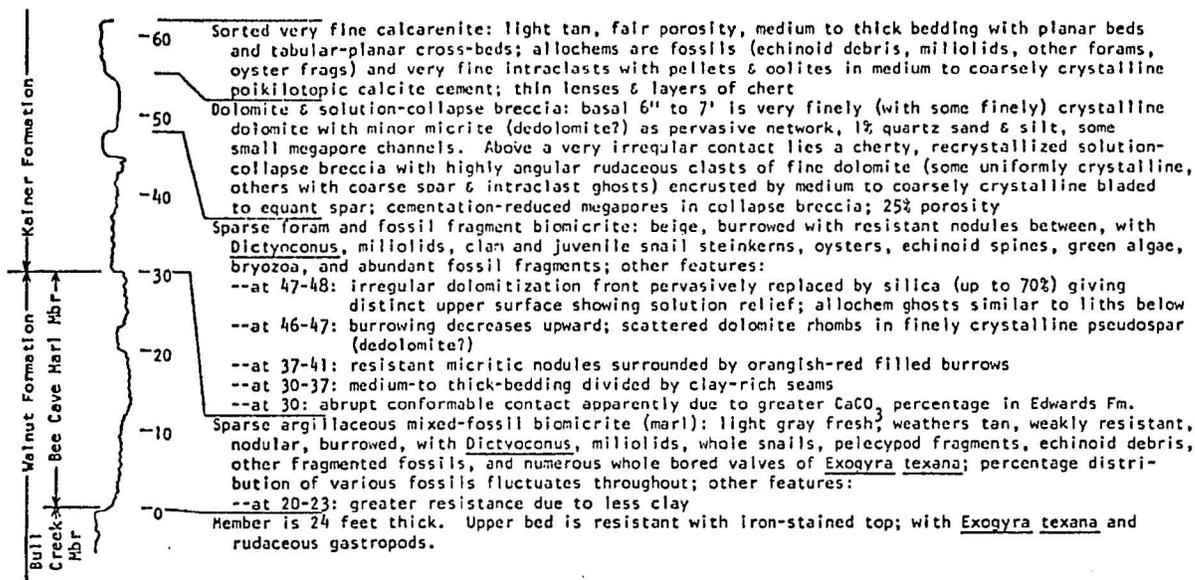
COLORADO RIVER BLUFF SECTION

Section measured on Colorado River cutbank near the main fault-line scarp of the Balcones fault zone below Tom Miller dam in Austin, Travis Co. Begin at water level on west bank of river and work upward and northward around cliff to Redbud Trail. Continue measuring upward and southward along Redbud Trail.



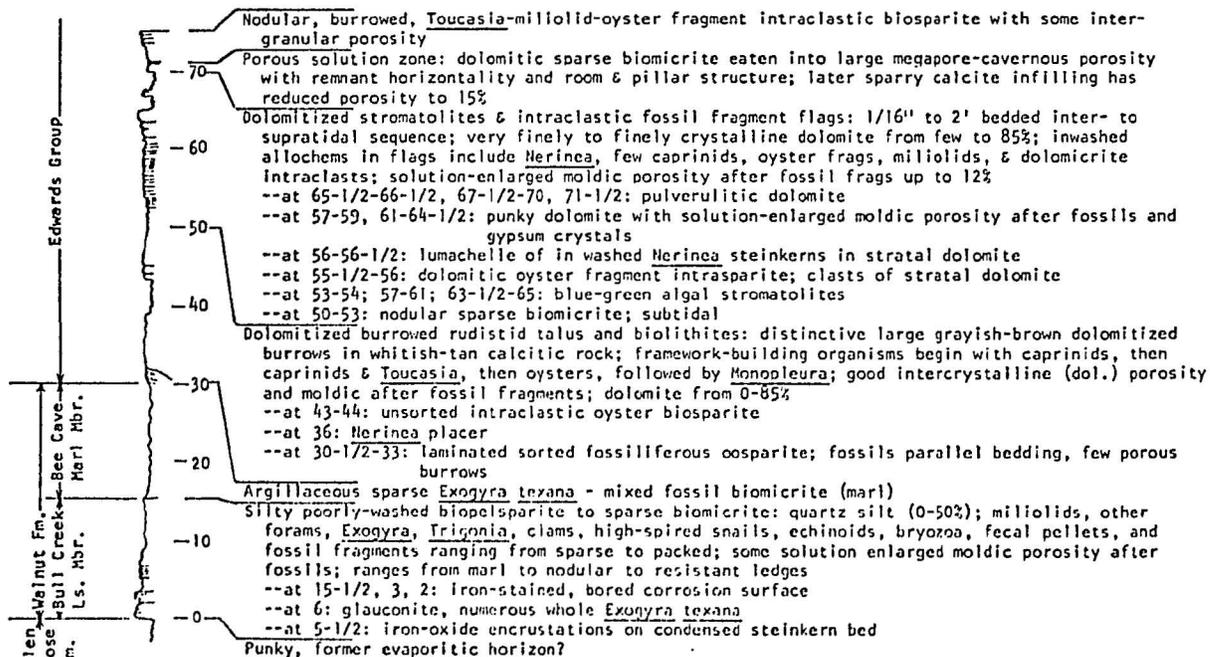
WEST LOOP FREEWAY SECTION

Measured in roadcut being quarried immediately north of West Loop Freeway-Bee Cave Road Intersection, southwestern part of Austin West quad, Travis Co., Texas.



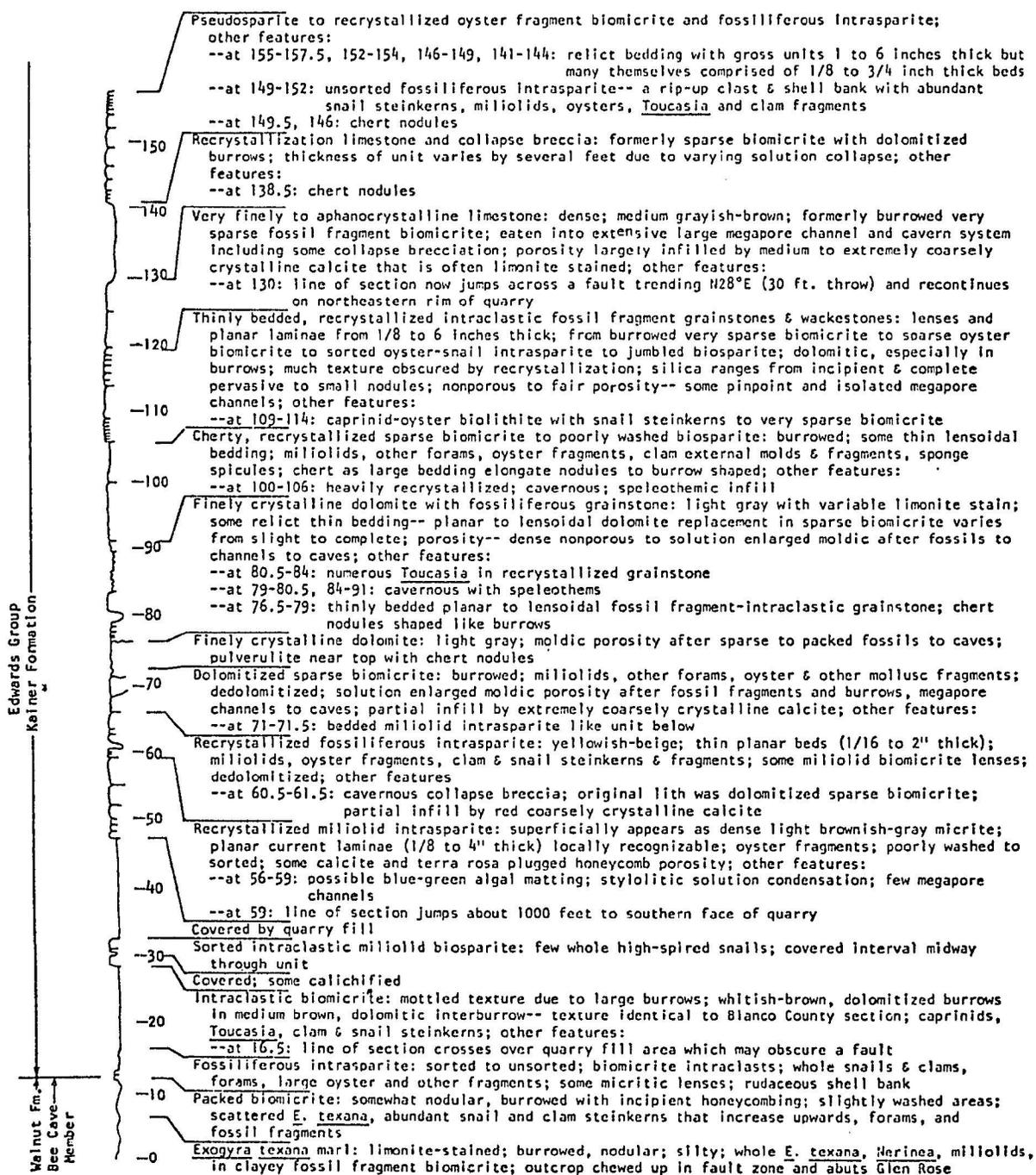
BLANCO - COLORADO RIVER DIVIDE SECTION

Measured in drainage ditch and roadcut on Ranch Road 165, southeastern corner of Yeager Creek quad, Blanco Co., Texas.



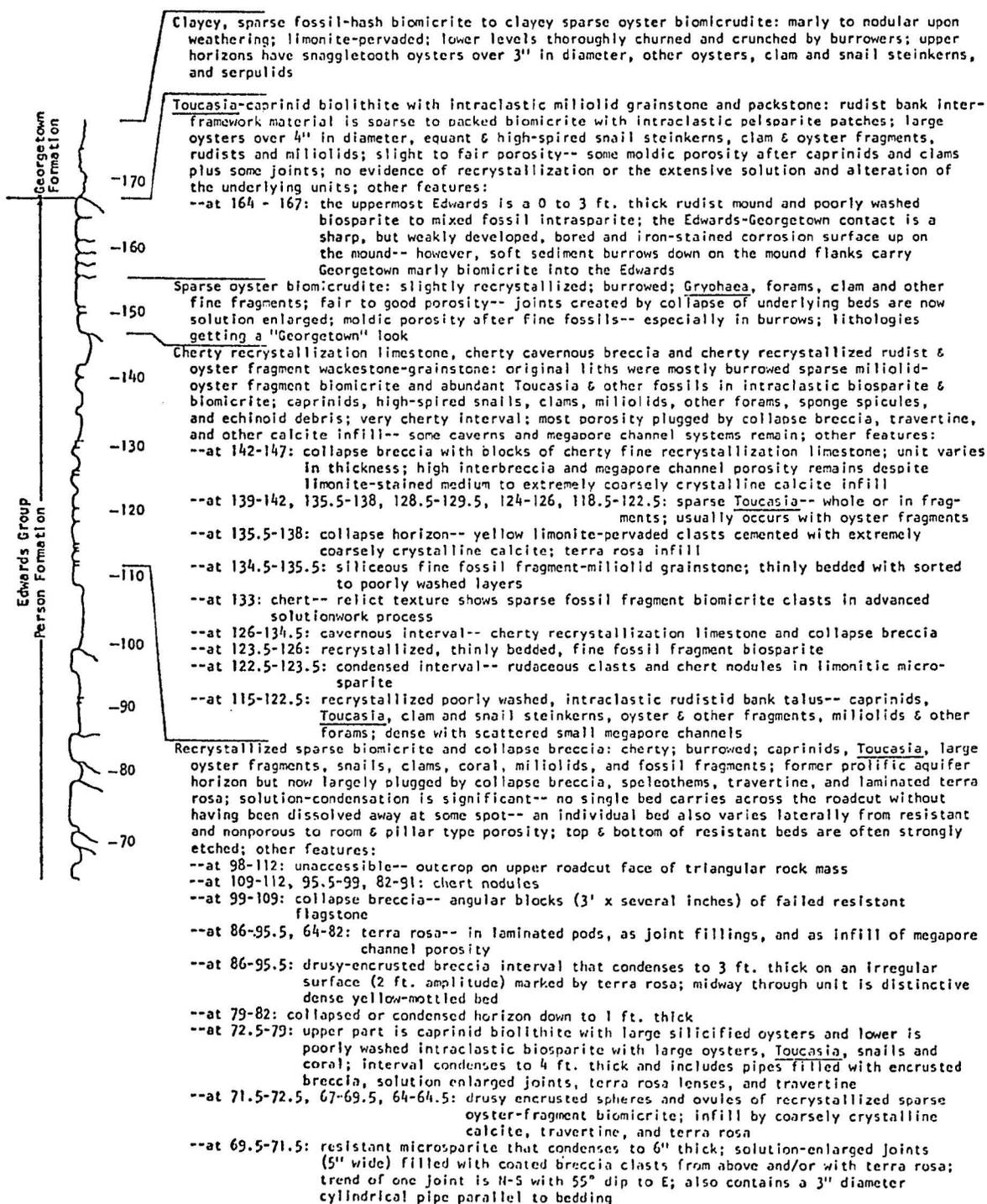
ERDEN QUARRY SECTION

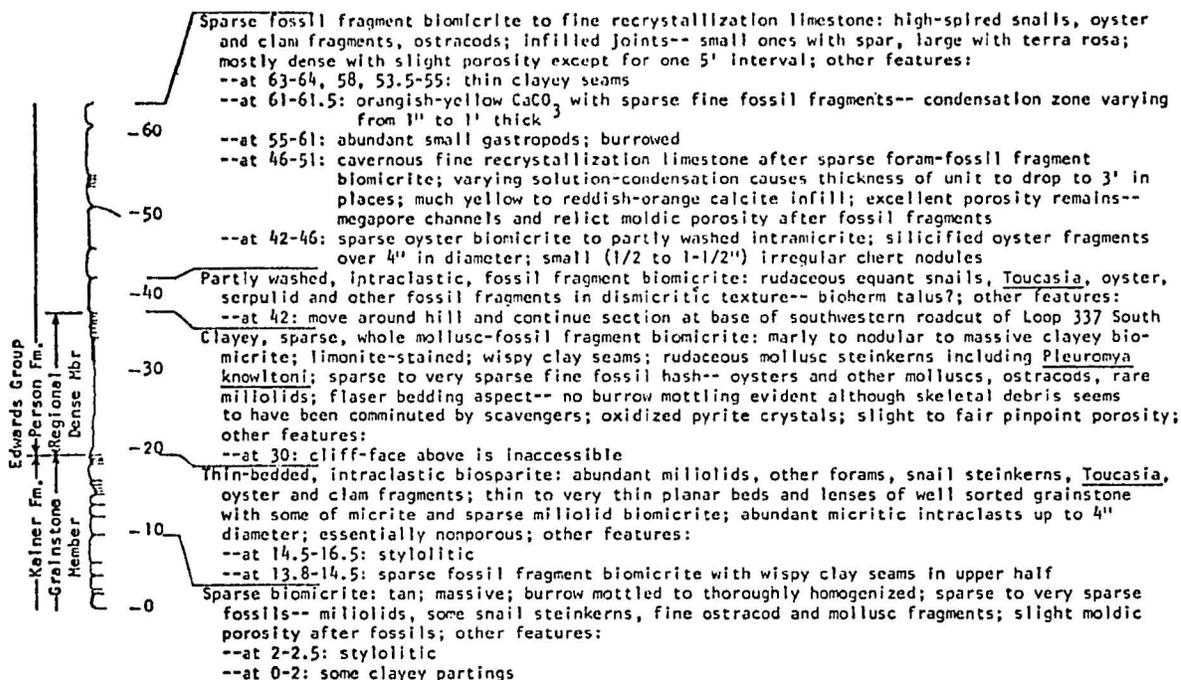
Located in an abandoned quarry on the Roland Erben ranch off the old river road just below the 4th crossing of the Guadalupe River southeast from the town of Sattler in the northeast portion of the Sattler quadrangle, Comal Co. Section begins in a fault zone inside the apex of the first road bifurcation within the quarry, continues around to the east-southeast, stops, then recontinues northeast across another fault and finishes on the northeastern rim of the quarry.



LOOP 337 SOUTH SECTION

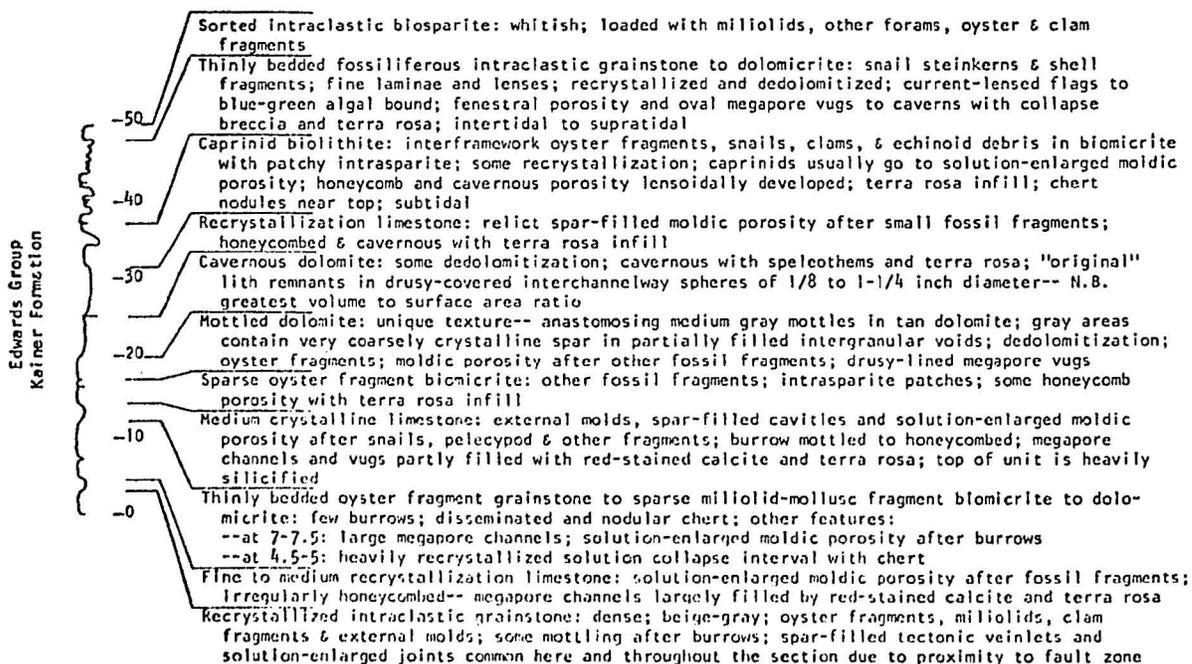
Located near the main Balcones fault-line scarp in the northeastern portion of the New Braunfels West quadrangle along Loop 337 South as it skirts the northwestern margin of New Braunfels, Comal Co. Section begins in an abandoned quarry just north of Jentsch Acres then transfers to the fresh roadcuts of Loop 337 South and follows them uphill.





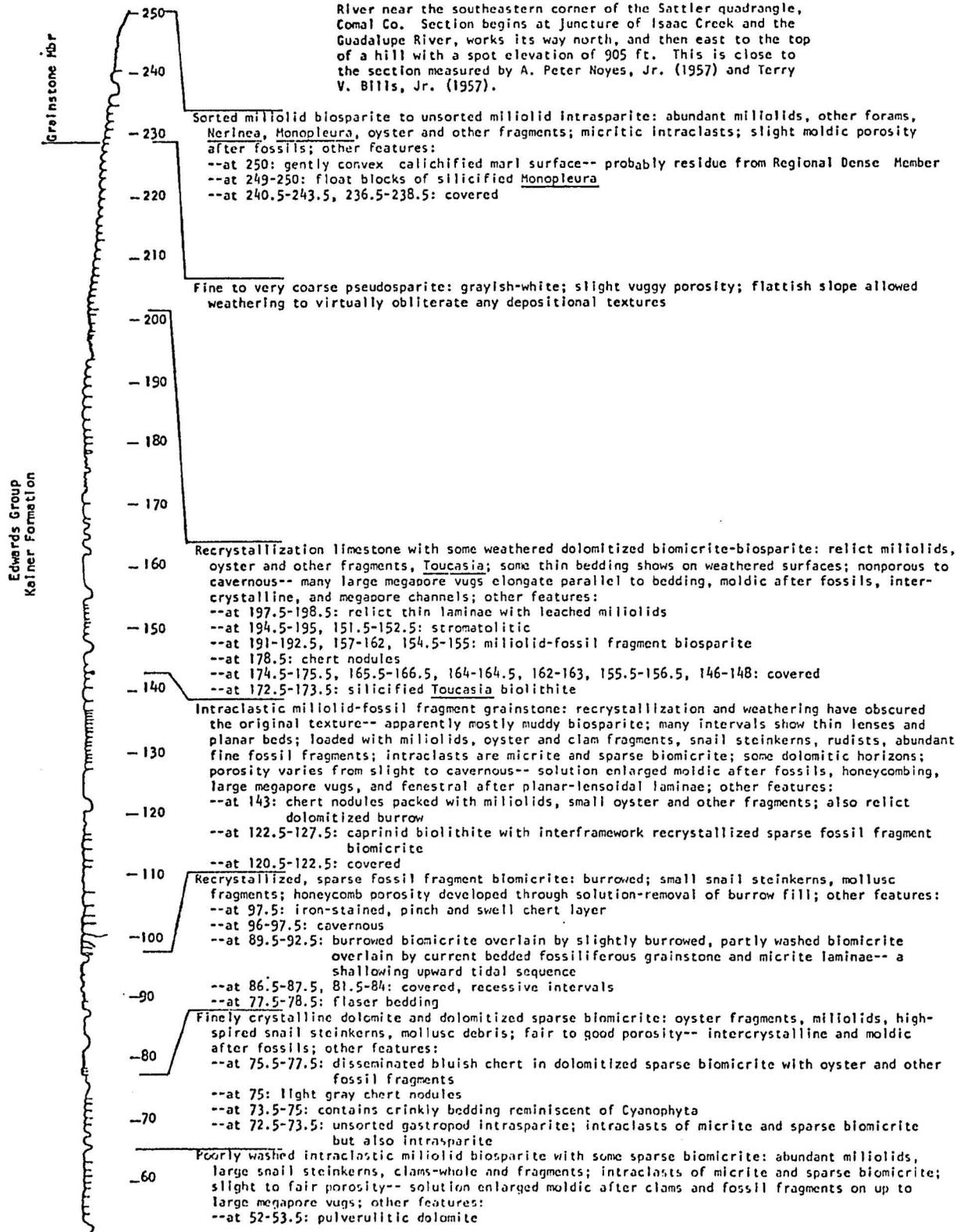
BEAR CREEK ROADCUT SECTION

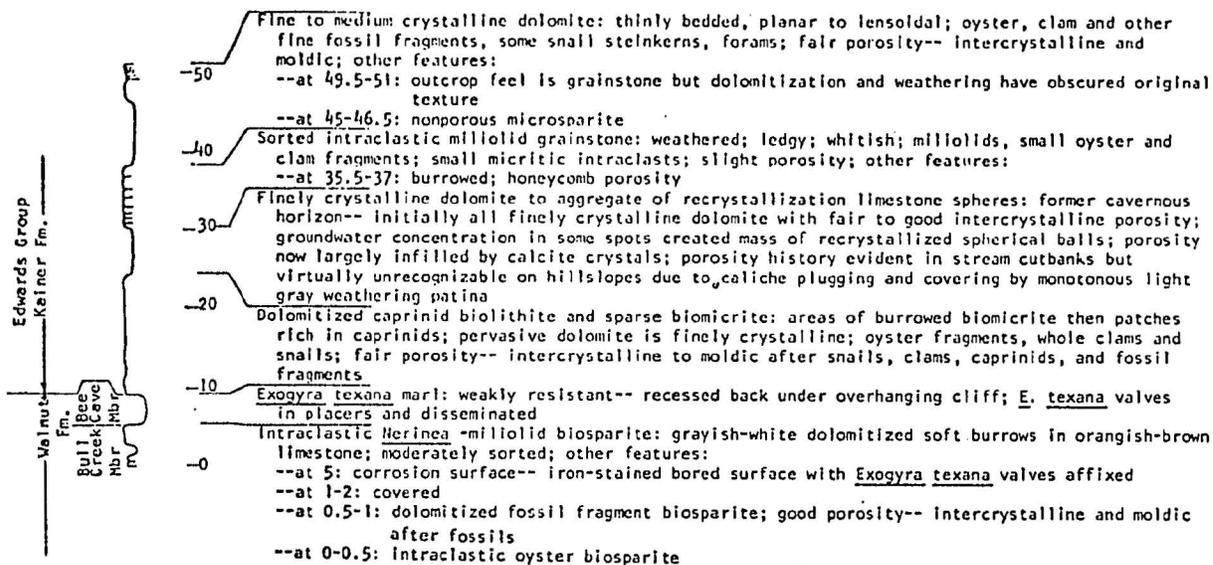
Located along the new Bear Creek road just south of the Bear Creek fault in the west-central part of the Sattler quadrangle, Comal Co. Section begins at base of east side of roadcut.



ISAAC CREEK SECTION

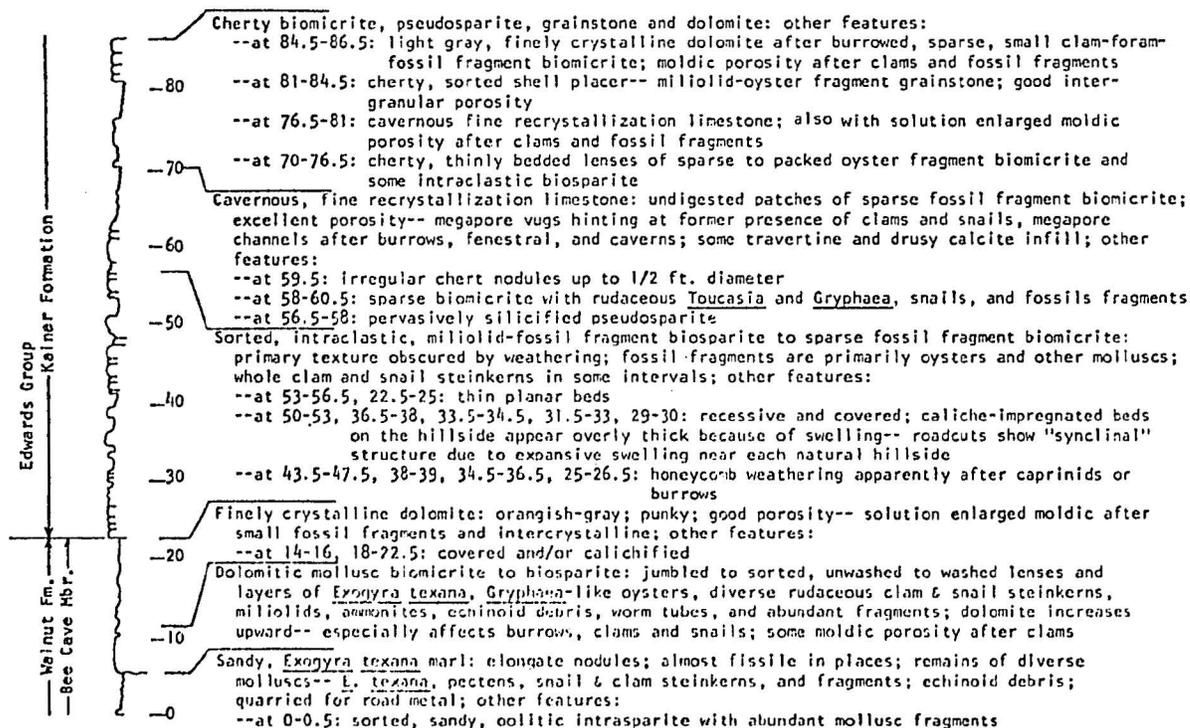
Located just northeast of the first crossing of the Guadalupe River near the southeastern corner of the Sattler quadrangle, Comal Co. Section begins at juncture of Isaac Creek and the Guadalupe River, works its way north, and then east to the top of a hill with a spot elevation of 905 ft. This is close to the section measured by A. Peter Noyes, Jr. (1957) and Terry V. Bills, Jr. (1957).





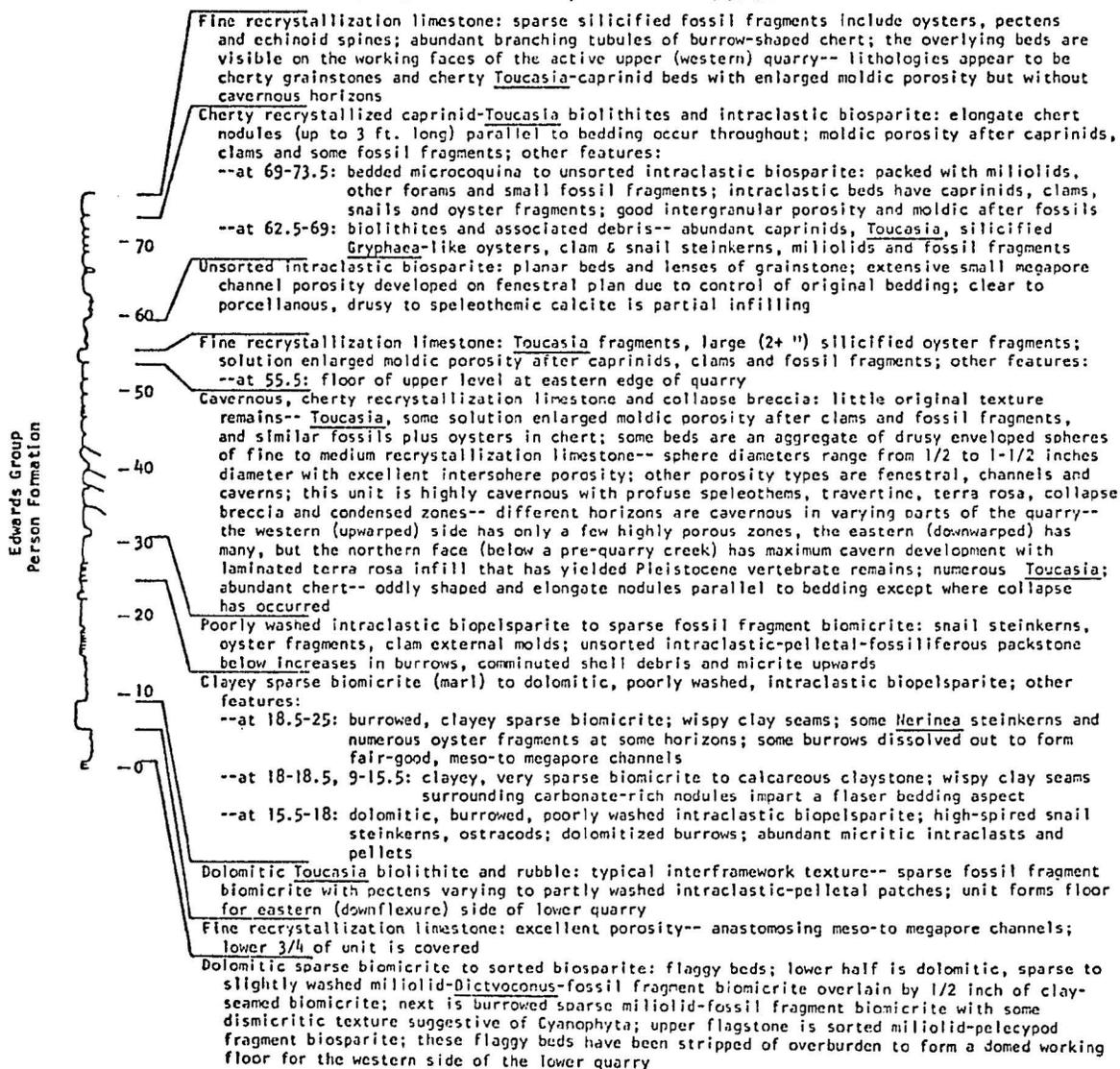
VALLEY VIEW SECTION

Located in the southeastern portion of the Smithson Valley quadrangle near the intersection of Highway 46 and Crane's Hill Road where a lone dwelling is designated as the town of Valley View. Section begins in the bed of Dry Comal Creek just south of Highway 46, works its way southwest up a stream cutbank, and then west along the highway's southern roadcut.



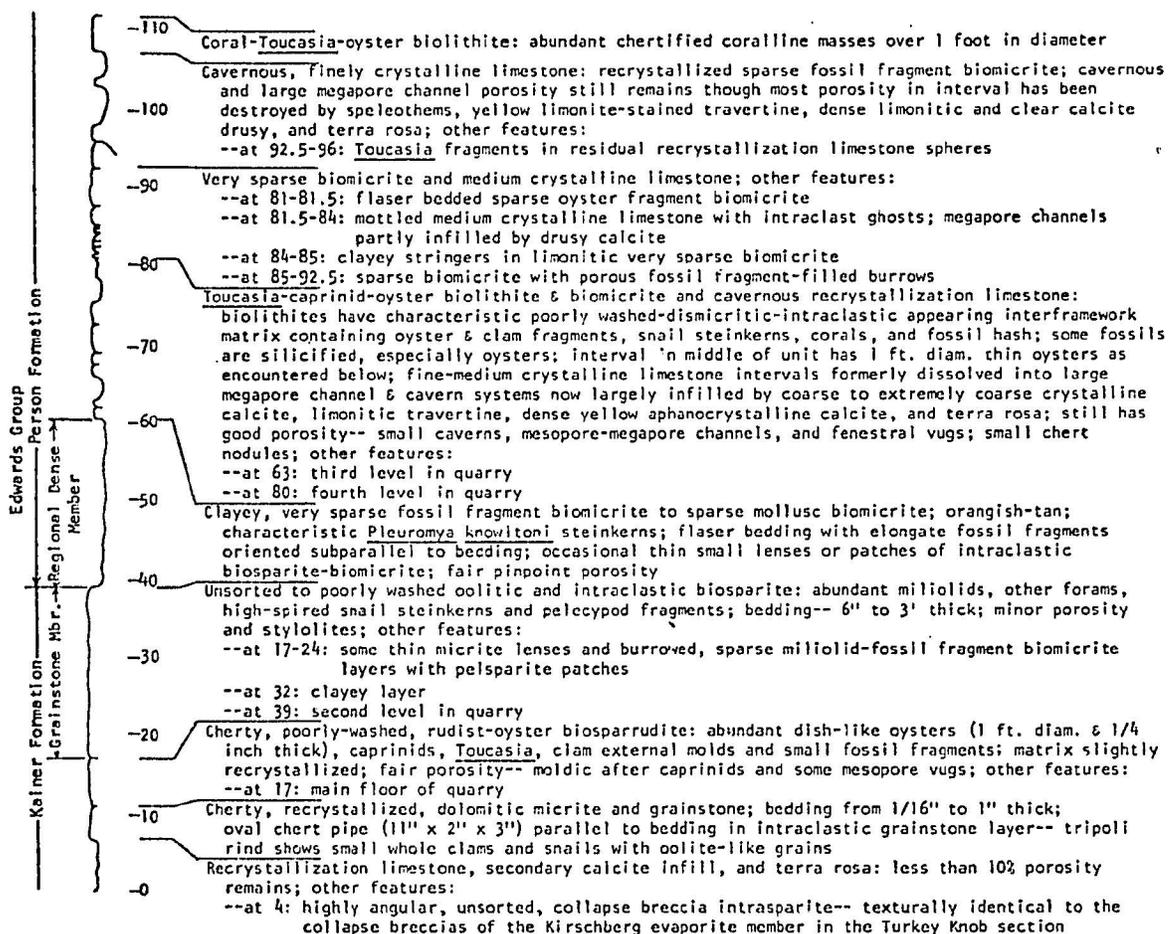
SERVTEX MATERIALS CO. QUARRY SECTION

Locality is in the lower (eastern) quarry of the Servtex Materials Co. along the main Balcones fault-line scarp in the southeastern part of the Bat Cave quadrangle, Comal Co. Section begins on the west side, switches east and down across a sharp flexure, and then samples the two working levels on the eastern face. The upper part of the lower level is physically inaccessible and was sampled by throwing rocks against the quarry wall. This is essentially the same section measured by John Newcomb (1971).



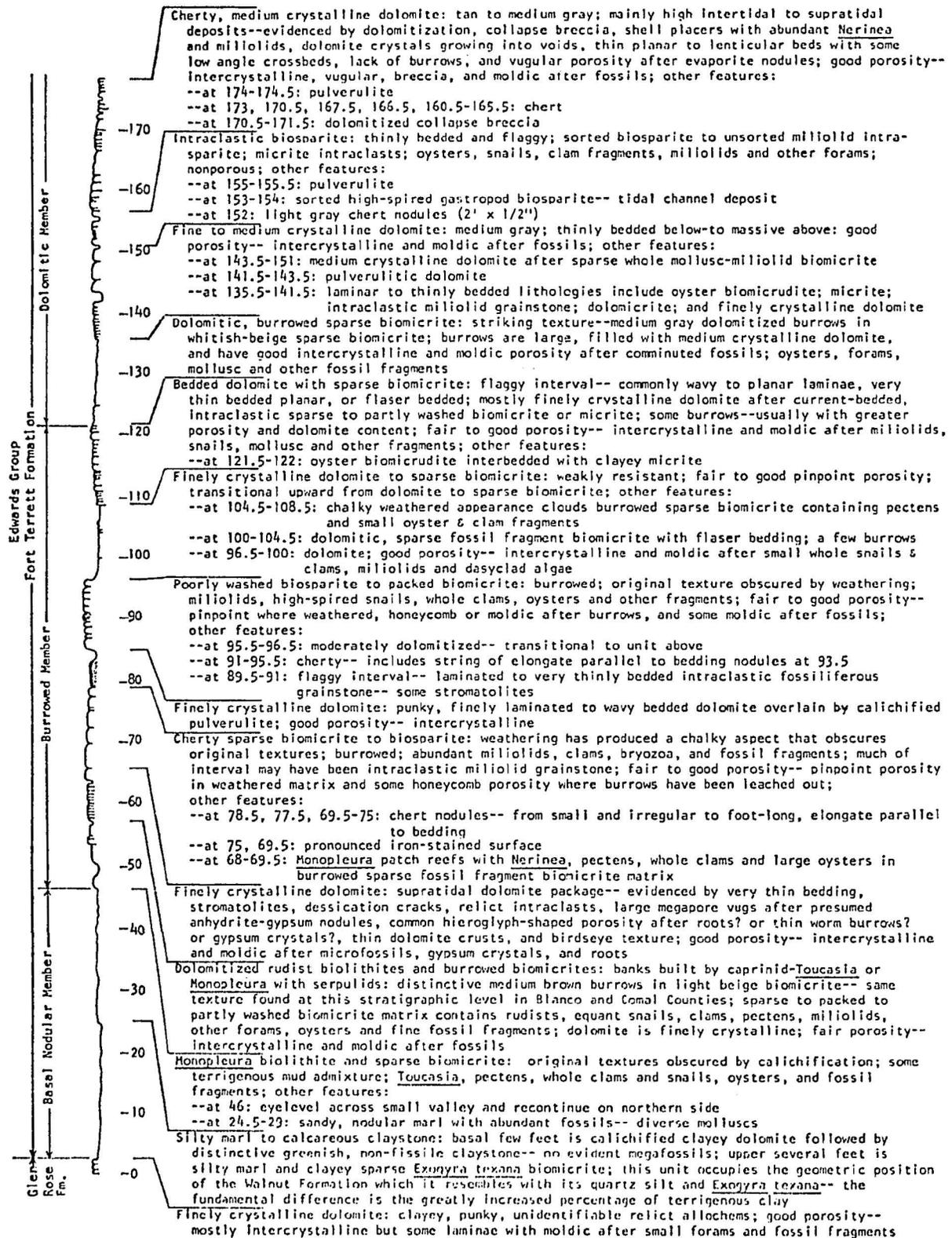
U. S. GYPSUM CO. QUARRY SECTION

Located within the large U. S. Gypsum Co. quarry along the main Balcones fault-line scarp in the center of the New Braunfels West quadrangle at Dittlinger, Comal Co. The section was measured in a lowermost pit, and the four working levels above it, in the east-central part of the quarry. The 22 ft. thick grainstone member of the Kainer Formation is the only rock unit utilized by the company.



WEST SISTER CREEK SECTION

Located along State Highway 1376 about nine miles north of Sisterdale, Kendall Co. Section measured in the roadcuts rising north out of the West Sister Creek valley. The location of this section is identical to that of Pete Rose (1968).



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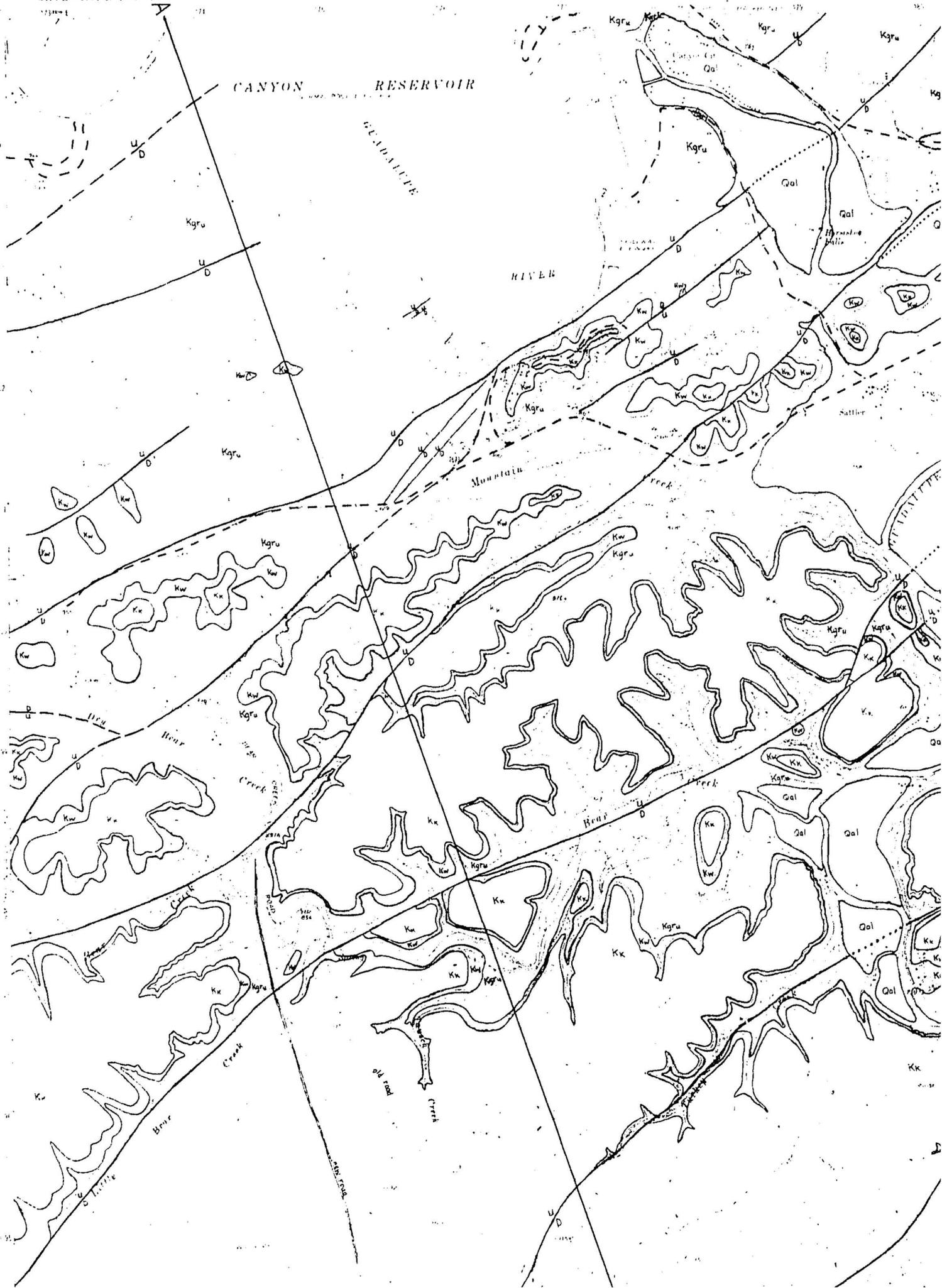
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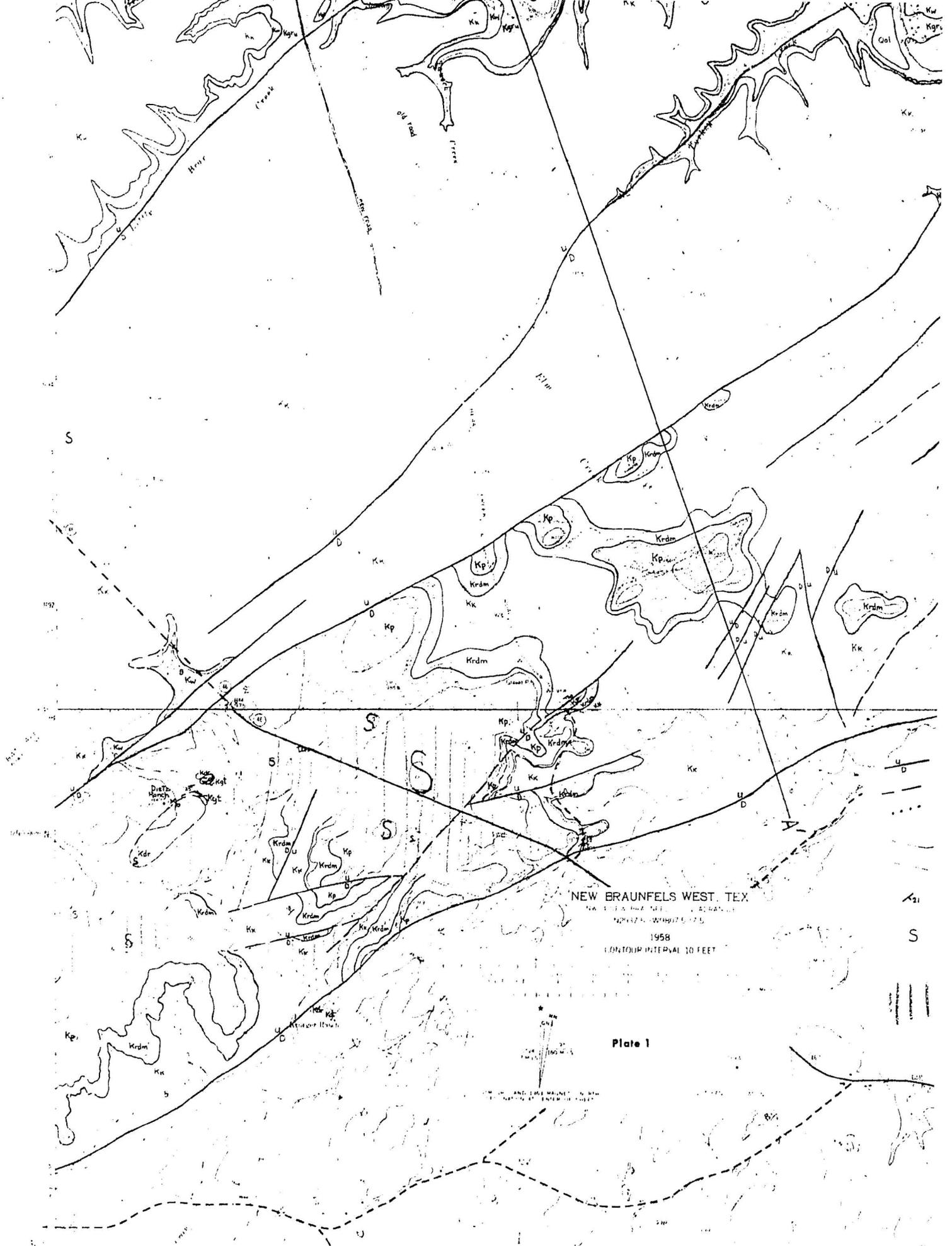
Patrick Leon Abbott was born on September 30, 1940 to Clement L. and Constance V. Abbott. He went through the public school system in San Diego, California, culminating in June 1963 with a Bachelor of Science degree from San Diego State College "with distinction" in geology. He entered The University of Texas at Austin in September 1963, enjoyed the experience of a teaching assistantship, and concluded all relevant work during the summer of 1965 when final copies of his thesis were filed in the library. Returning to California in September 1965 he spent some of his evenings in a freshman French class at San Diego Junior College. This expunged the remaining departmental requirement so his Master of Arts degree was finally granted in August 1966. The years from September 1965 to September 1969 were primarily occupied in the retail liquor business but a temporary teaching stint at San Diego State in 1968-69 re-awakened an appetite for academia. He re-entered The University of Texas at Austin in September 1969, learned a lot, was honored with the Pan American Petroleum Company Faculty Doctoral Fellowship in 1970-71, and left in August 1971 to accept an assistant professorship in geology at California State University, San Diego. He is married to the former Sharon Martin and they have three outstanding sons: Craig, Lance, and Deron.

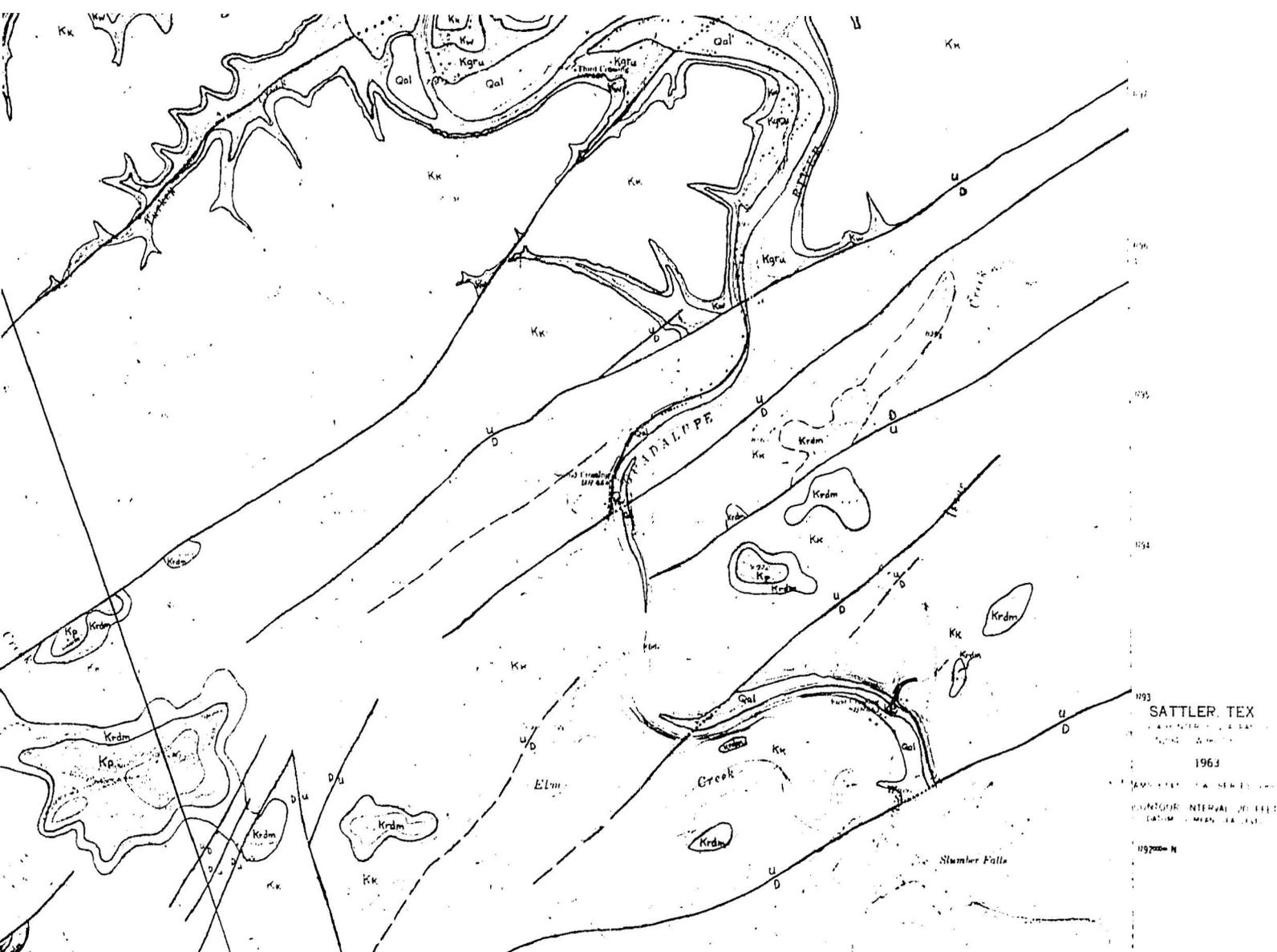
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LEGEND

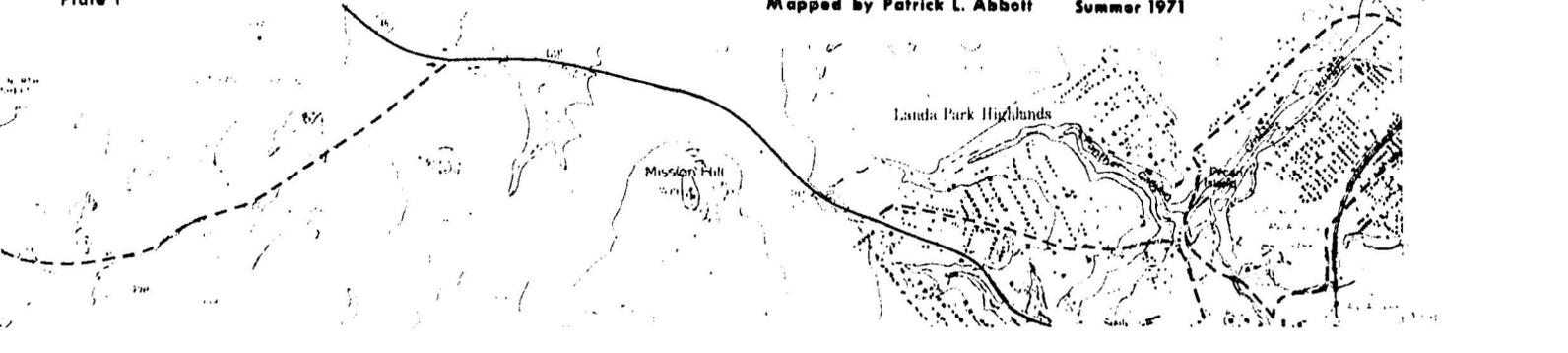
- Fault
- Inferred Fault
- Concealed Fault
- Contact
- Inferred Contact
- Strike + Dip of beds
- Sinkhole; size of S approximates extent of depression
- Mega-collapse region: mesquite-covered regolith of terra rosa containing chattermarked chert and siliceous limestone blocks

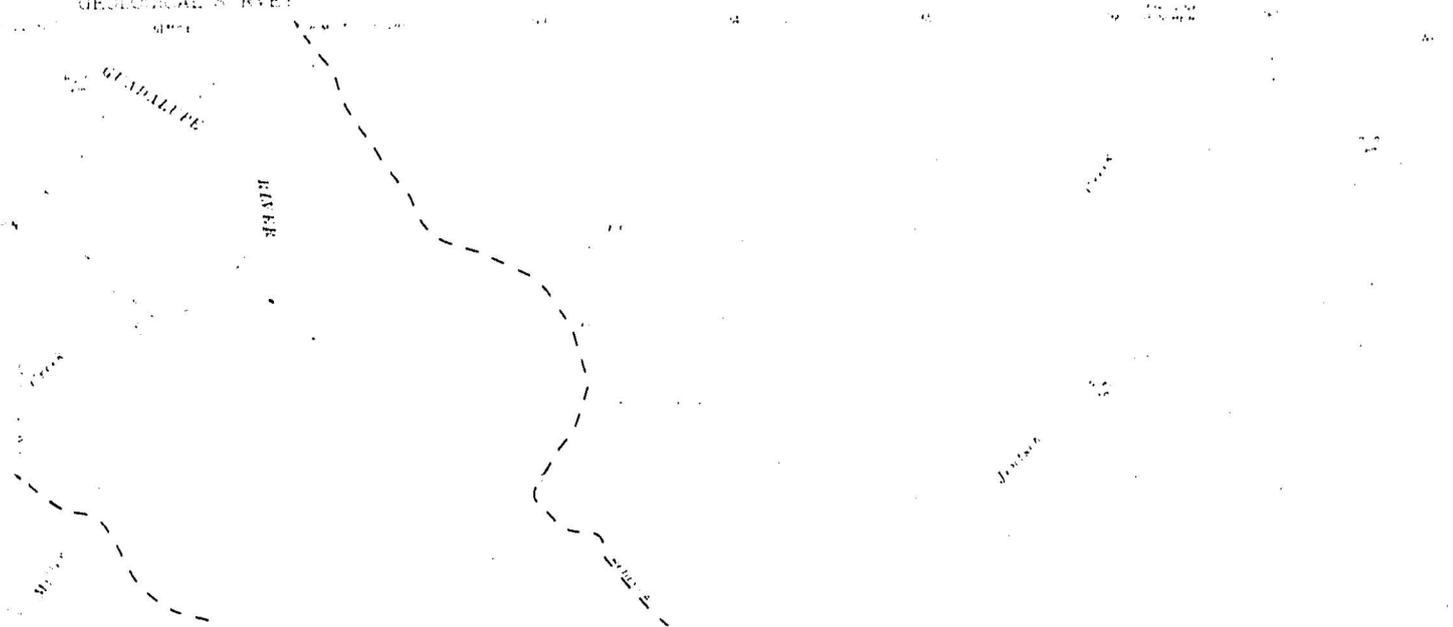
QUATERNARY	Alluvium, colluvium and some plowed ground	Qal	
	Del Rio Claystone	Kdr	
CRETACEOUS SYSTEM	Georgetown Limestone	Kgt	
	EDWARDS GROUP	Person Formation	Kp
		Regional Dense Member	Krdm
	Kainer Formation	Kk	
	Walnut Formation	Kw	
	Glen Rose Formation	Kgru	
COMANCHE SERIES		Kgrl	

NEW BRAUNFELS WEST, TEX.
1958
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

Plate 1

Mapped by Patrick L. Abbott Summer 1971



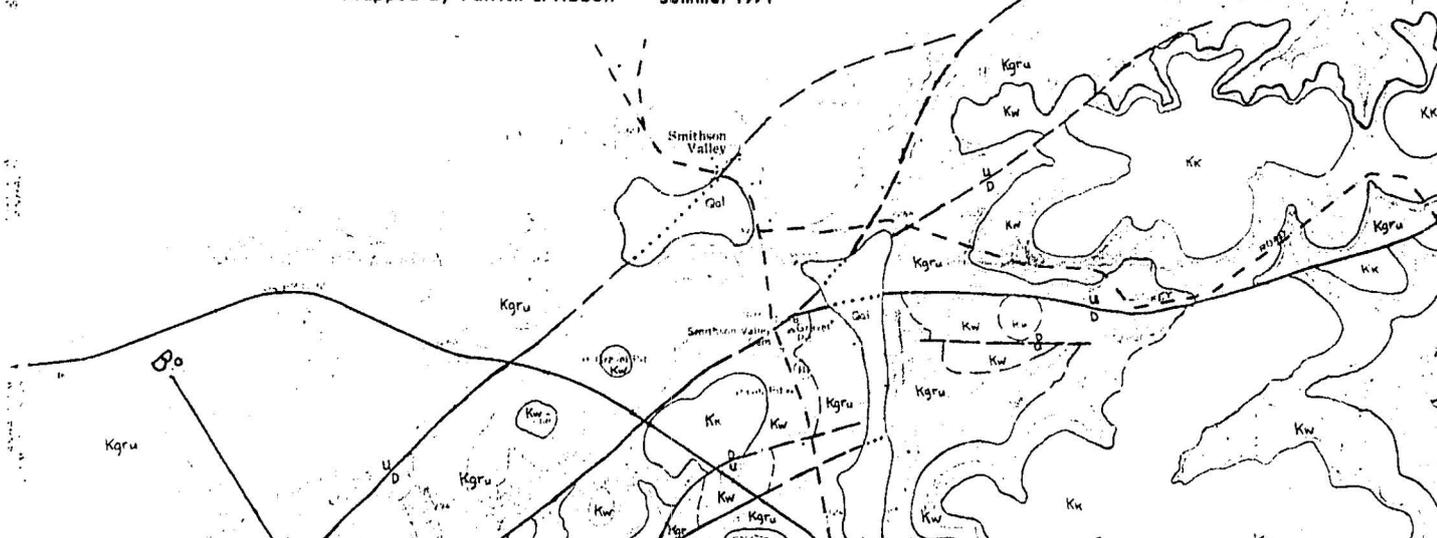


LEGEND

- Fault
- Inferred Fault
- Concealed Fault
- Contact
- Inferred Contact
- Strike + Dip of beds
- Sinkhole; size of S approximates extent of depression
- Mega-collapse region: mesquite-covered regolith of terra rosa containing chattermarked chert and siliceous limestone blocks

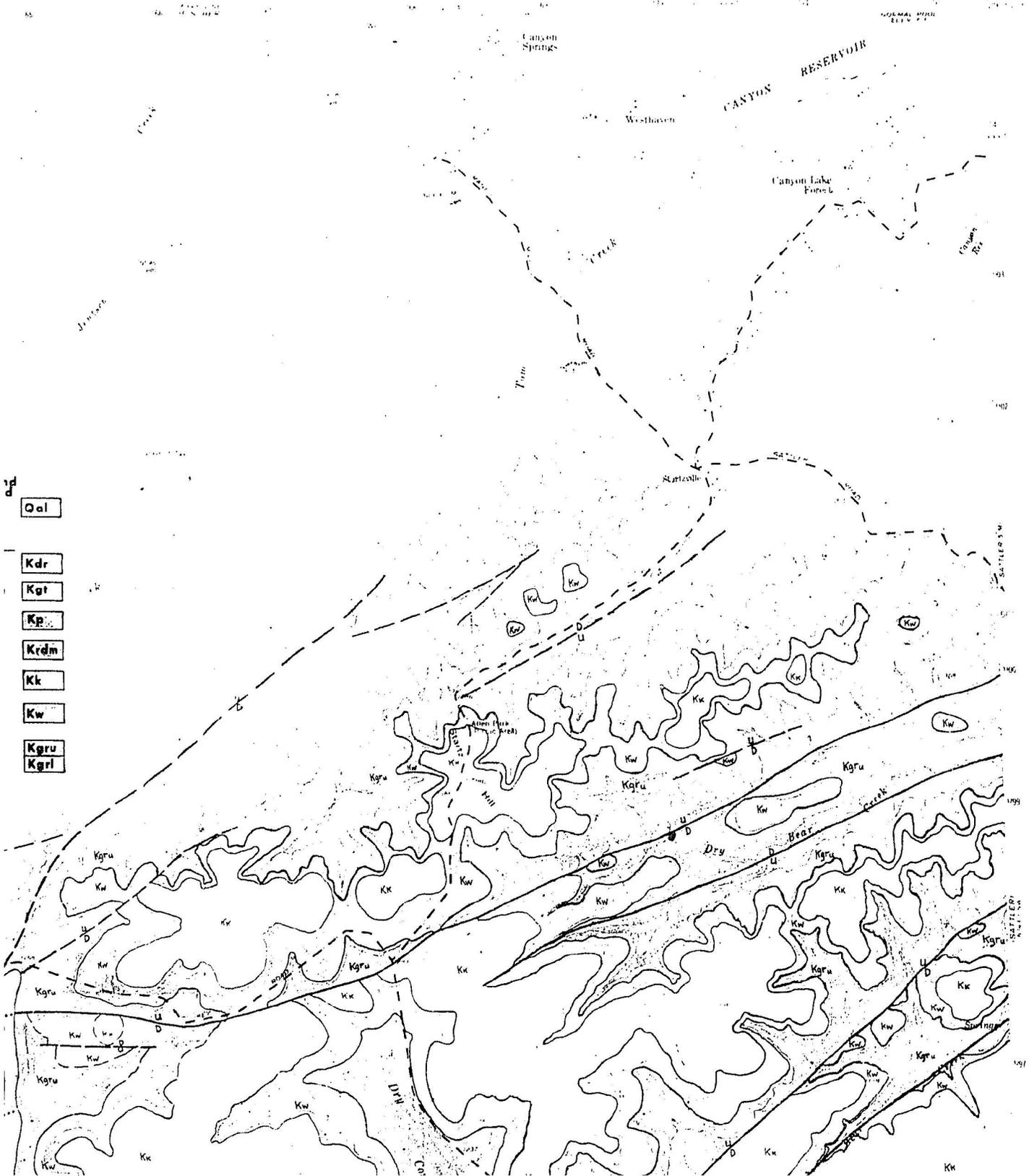
QUATERNARY	Alluvium, colluvium and some plowed ground	Qal	
	Del Rio Claystone	Kdr	
CRETACEOUS SYSTEM COMANCHE SERIES	Georgetown Limestone	Kgt	
	EDWARDS GROUP	Person Formation	Kp
		Regional Dense Member	Krdm
	Kainer Formation	Kk	
	Walnut Formation	Kw	
	Glen Rose Formation	Kgru	
		Kgrl	

Mapped by Patrick L. Abbott Summer 1971



STATE OF TEXAS
TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

SMITHSON VALLEY QUADRANGLE
TEXAS (COMAL CO)
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)





1. This map was prepared from field notes and photographs taken during the summer of 1971. It is intended as a guide to the locations of the soil types shown. It is not intended as a scientific or engineering drawing. The map is not to scale and the locations of the soil types are approximate. The map is not to be used for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Map of Smithson Valley, Oregon, showing soil types and topographic features.

Map of Smithson Valley, Oregon, showing soil types and topographic features.

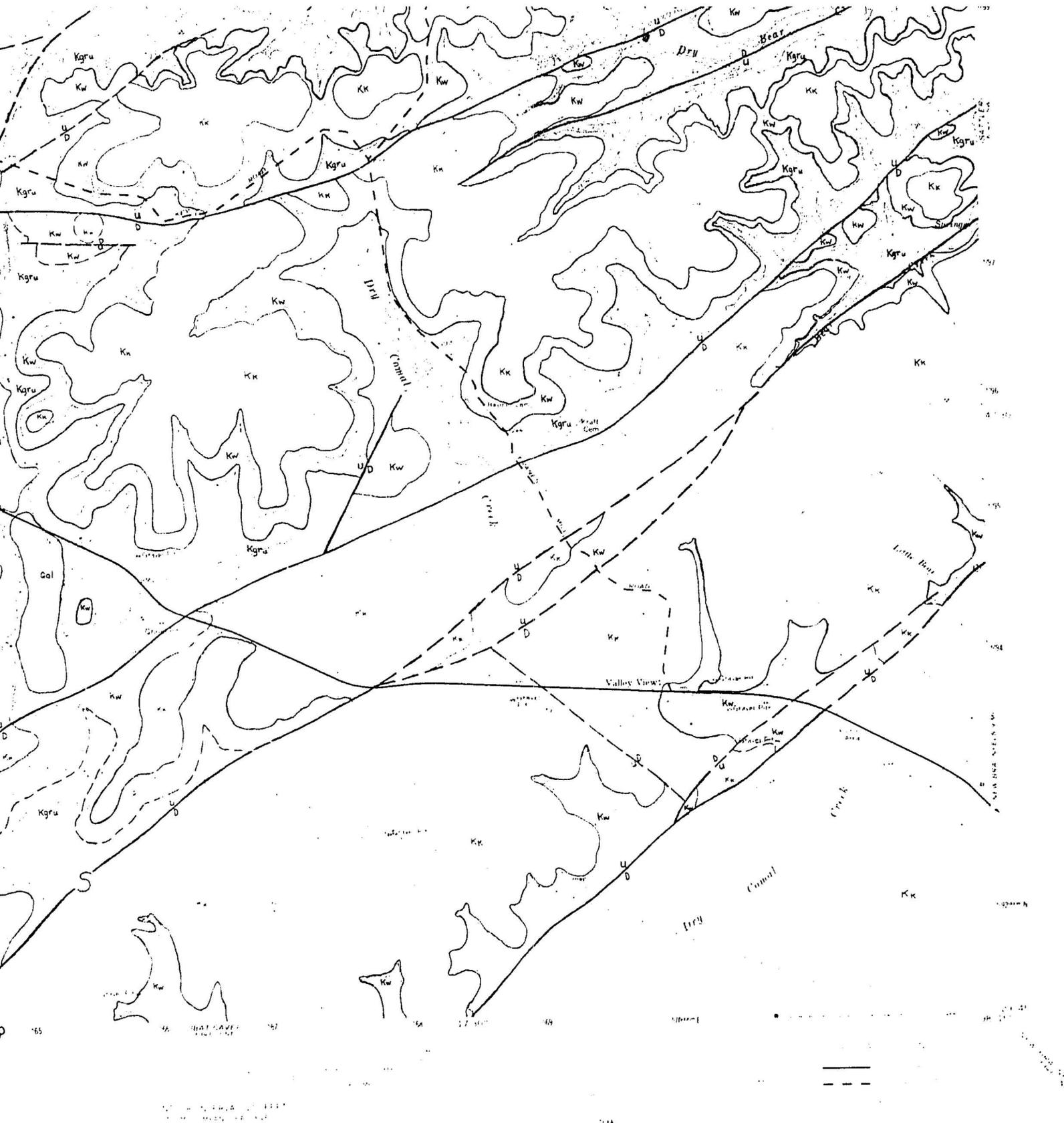


Plate 2 SMITHSON VALLEY, TEX.

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C.
 GEOLOGIC MAP OF SMITHSON VALLEY, TEXAS
 1:50,000 Scale

1964

AMERICAN SERIES 6000

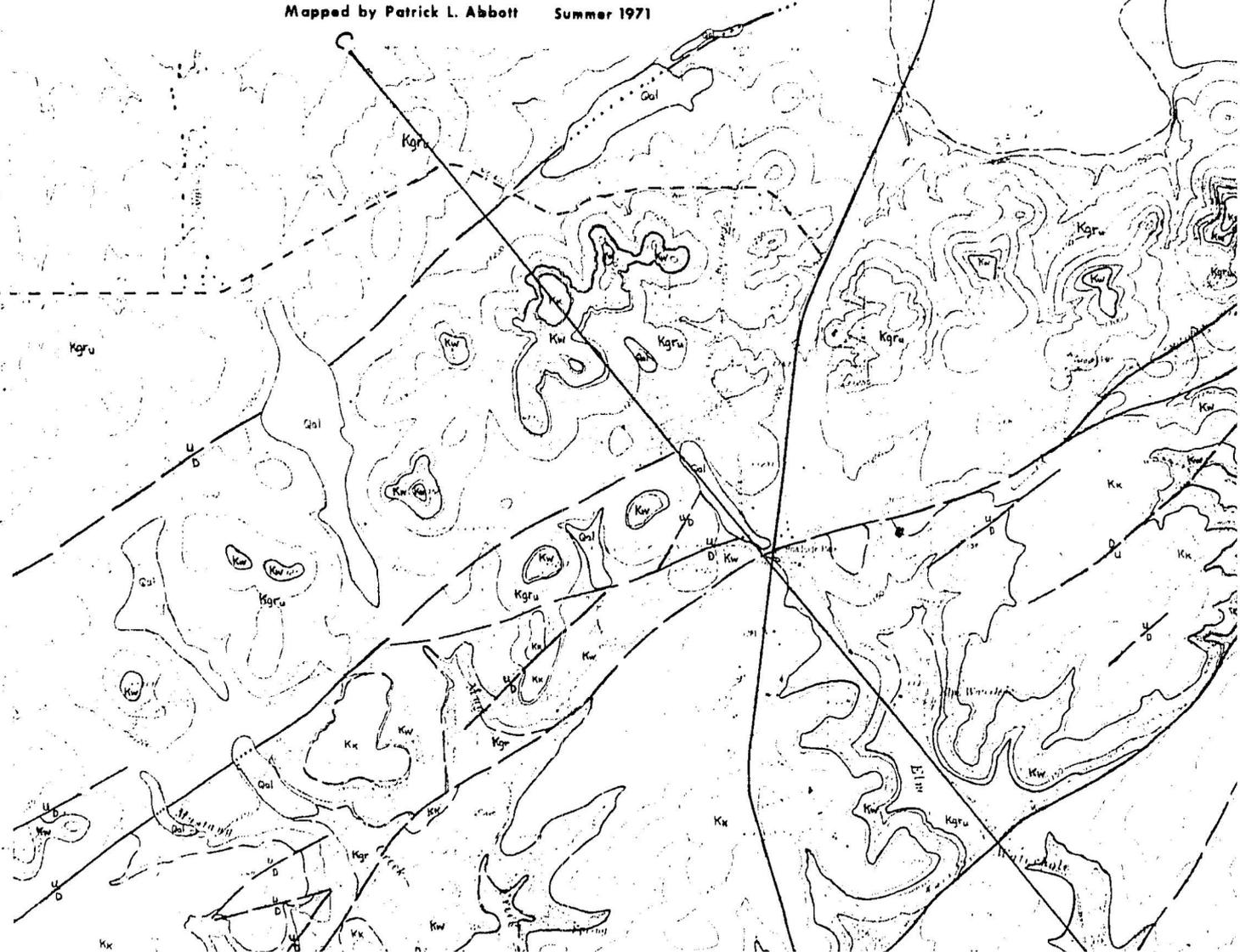
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

LEGEND

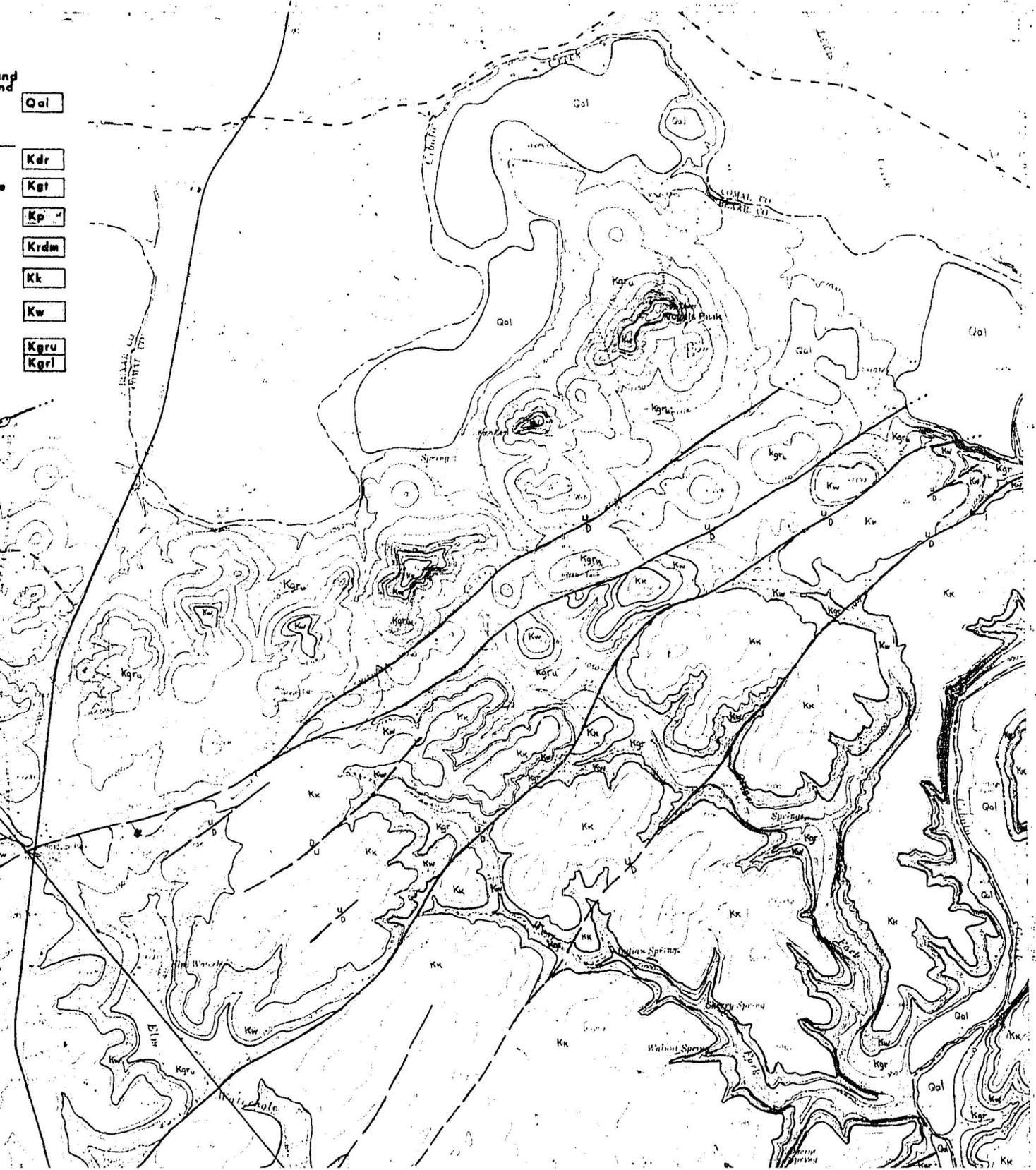
- Fault
- Inferred Fault
- Concealed Fault
- Contact
- Inferred Contact
- Strike + Dip of beds
- Sinkhole; size of S approximates extent of depression
- Mega-collapse region: mesquite-covered regolith of terra rosa containing chattermarked chert and siliceous limestone blocks

QUATERNARY	Alluvium, colluvium and some plowed ground	Qal
	Del Rio Claystone	Kdr
CRETACEOUS SYSTEM COMANCHE SERIES	Georgetown Limestone	Kgl
	EDWARDS GROUP	
	Person Formation	Kp
	Regional Dense Member	Krdm
	Kainer Formation	Kk
	Walnut Formation	Kw
	Glen Rose Formation	Kgru Kgrl

Mapped by Patrick L. Abbott Summer 1971



- Qal
- Kdr
- Kgl
- Kp
- Krdm
- Kk
- Kw
- Kgru
- Kgrl

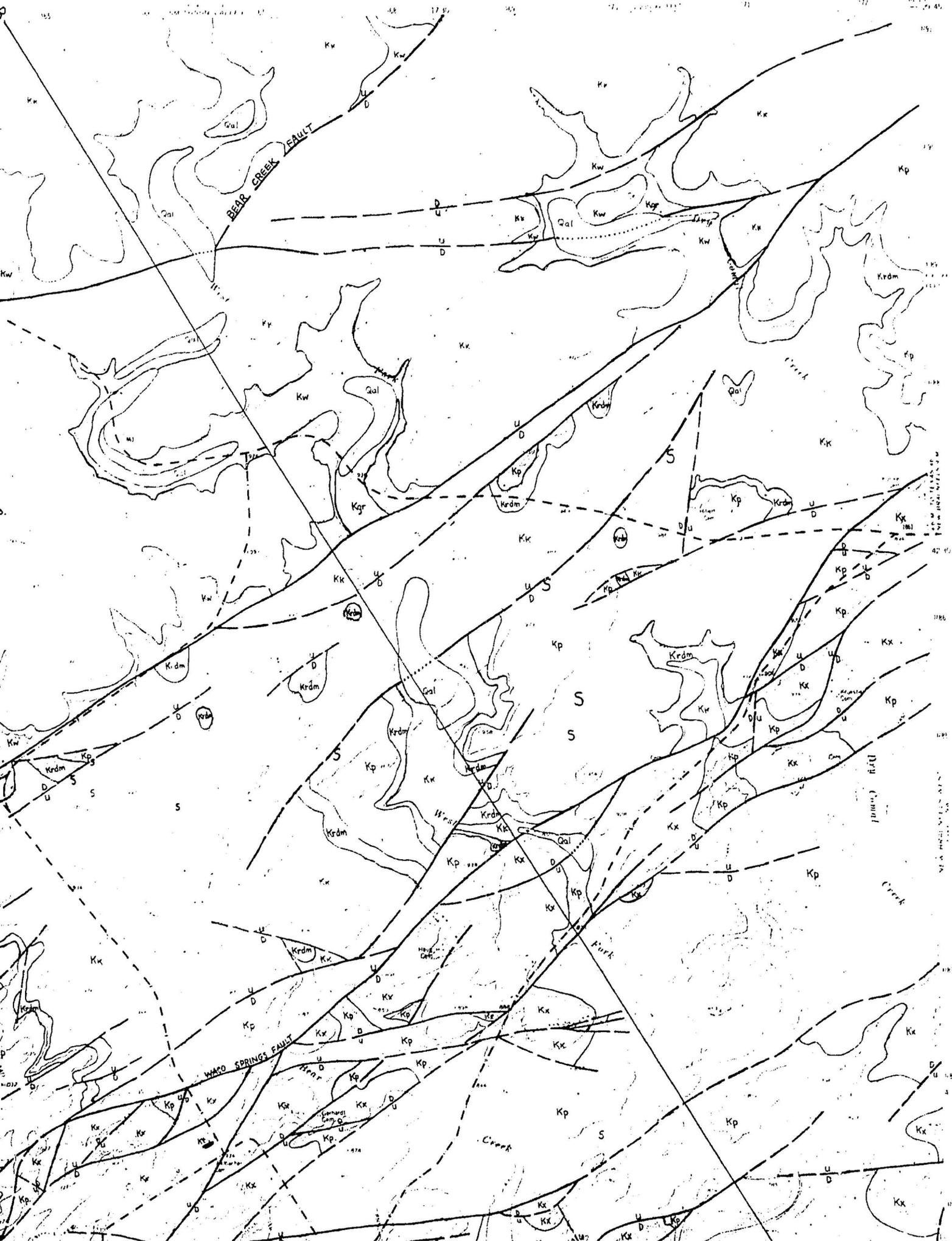




Scale 1:50,000
Sheet No. 100

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



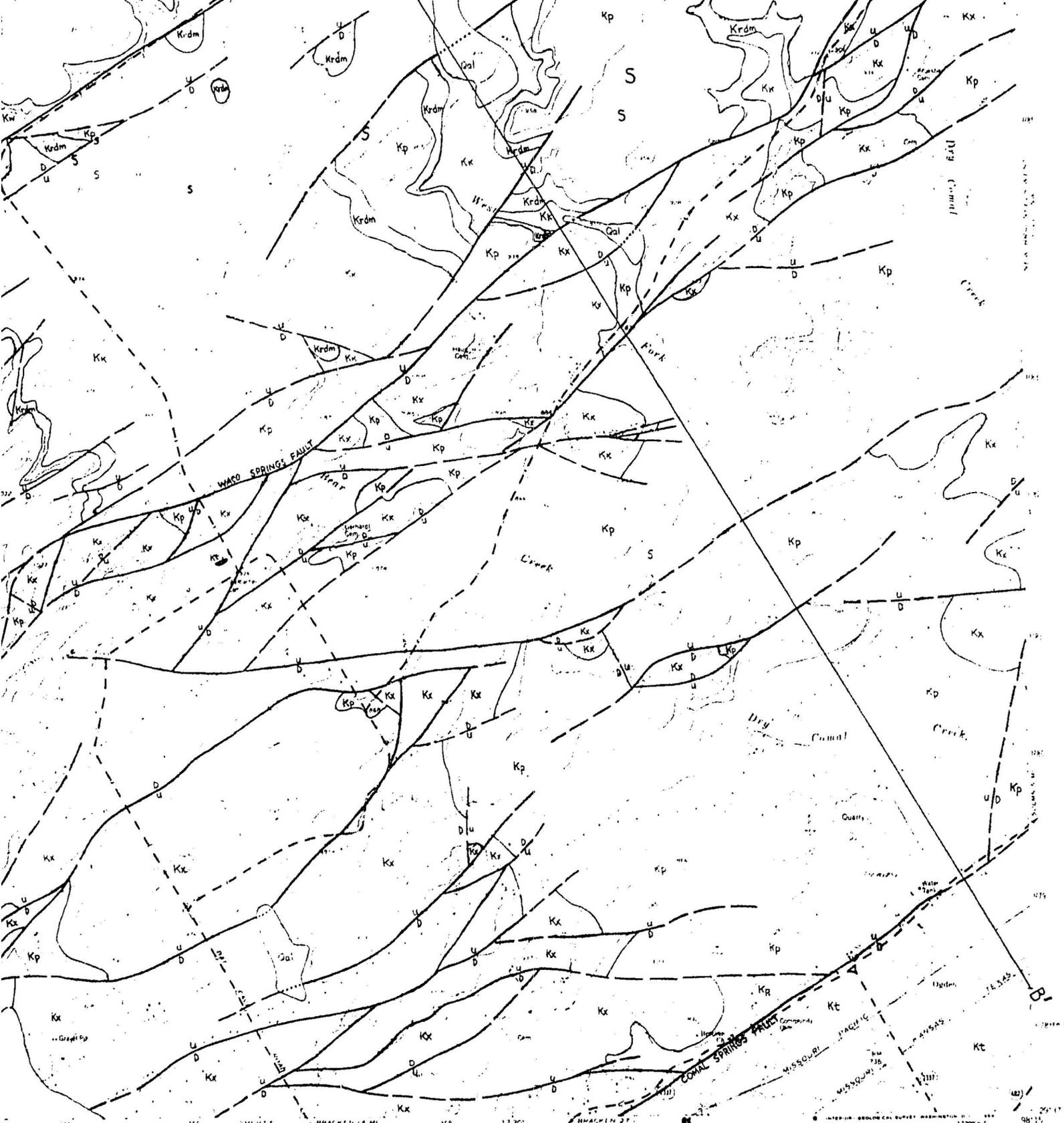




- Fault
- Inferred Fault
- Concealed Fault
- Contact
- Inferred Contact
- Strike + Dip of beds
- Sinkhole; size of S approximates extent of depression

MAPPED by JOHN H. NEWCOMB
Adapted by Patrick L. Abbott

Plate 4 BAT CAVE, TEX.
N29125, W1815/275
1967



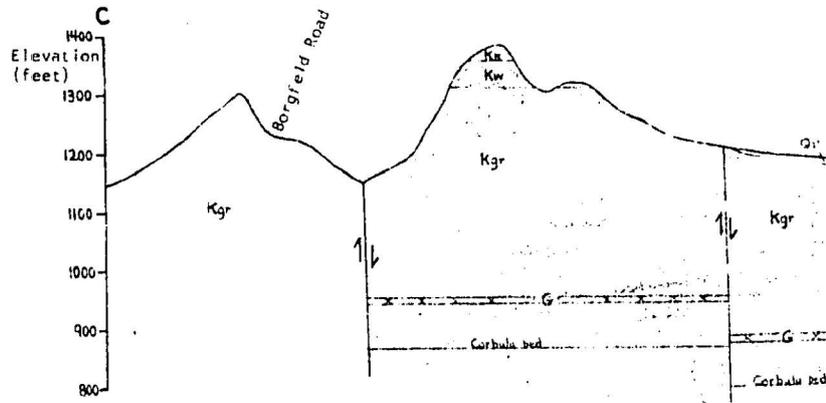
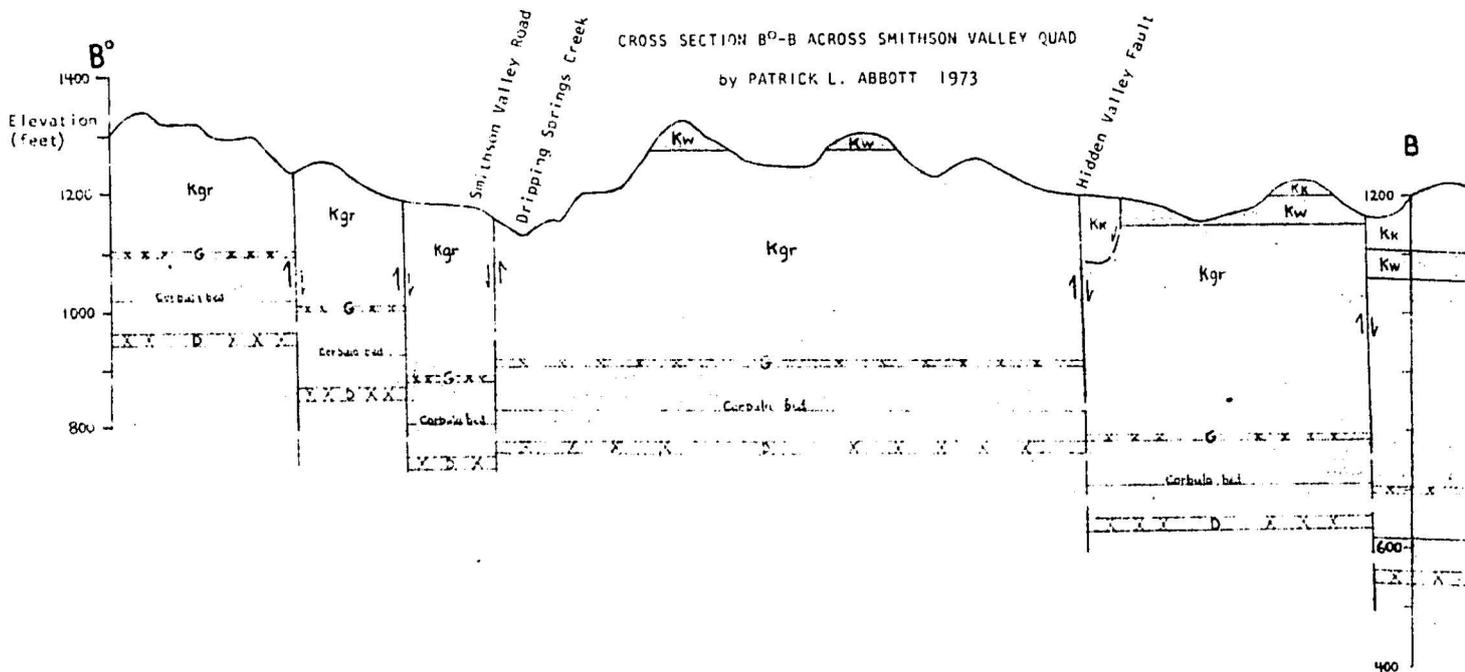
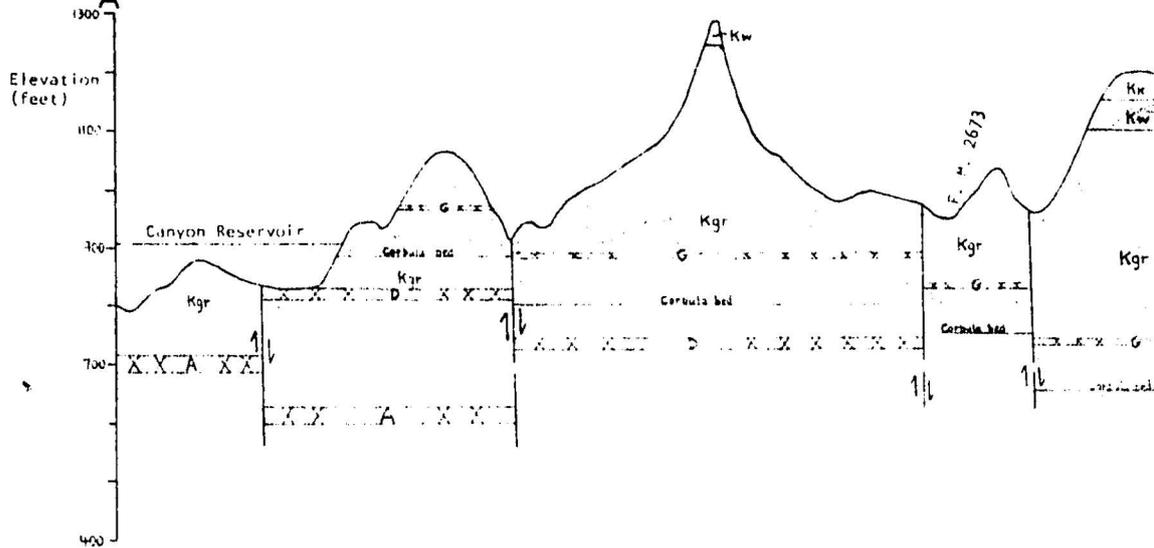
MAPPED by JOHN H. NEWCOMB Spring 1970

Adapted by Patrick L. Abbott

Plate 4 BAT CAVE TEX.
 1967

QUATERNARY SERIES	Alluvium, colluvium and some plowed ground	Qal
	Taylor Clay	Kt
	Austin Chalk Eagle Ford Formation	Kx
CRETACEOUS SYSTEM COMANCHE SERIES	Buda Limestone	Kx
	Del Rio Claystone	
	Georgetown Limestone	
	Person Formation	Kp
	Regional Dense Member	Krdm
	Kainer Formation	Kk
	Walnut Formation	Kw
	Glen Rose Formation	Kgr

approximates depression



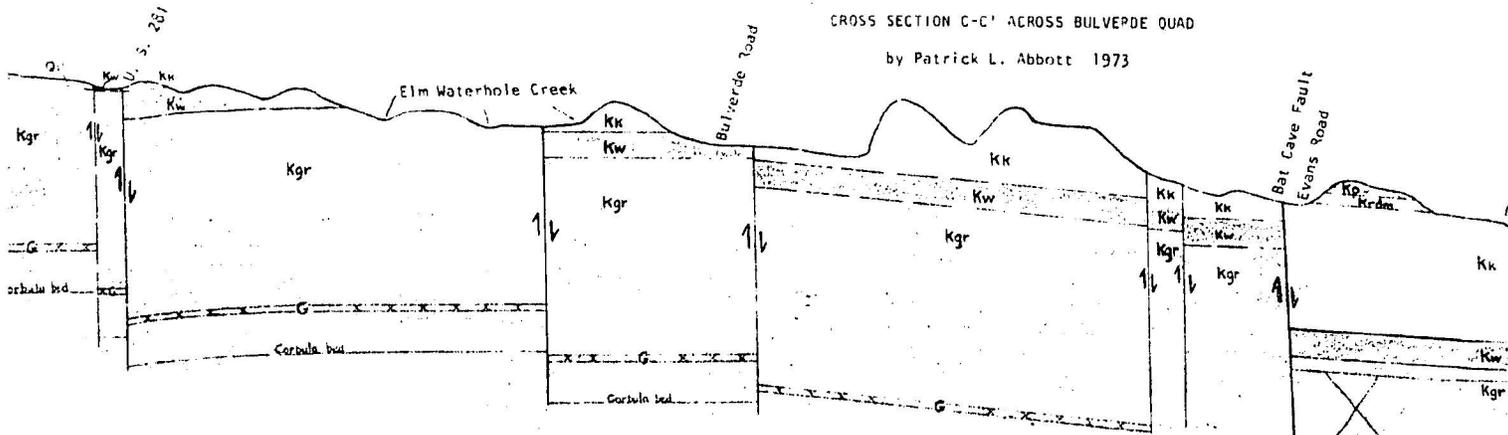
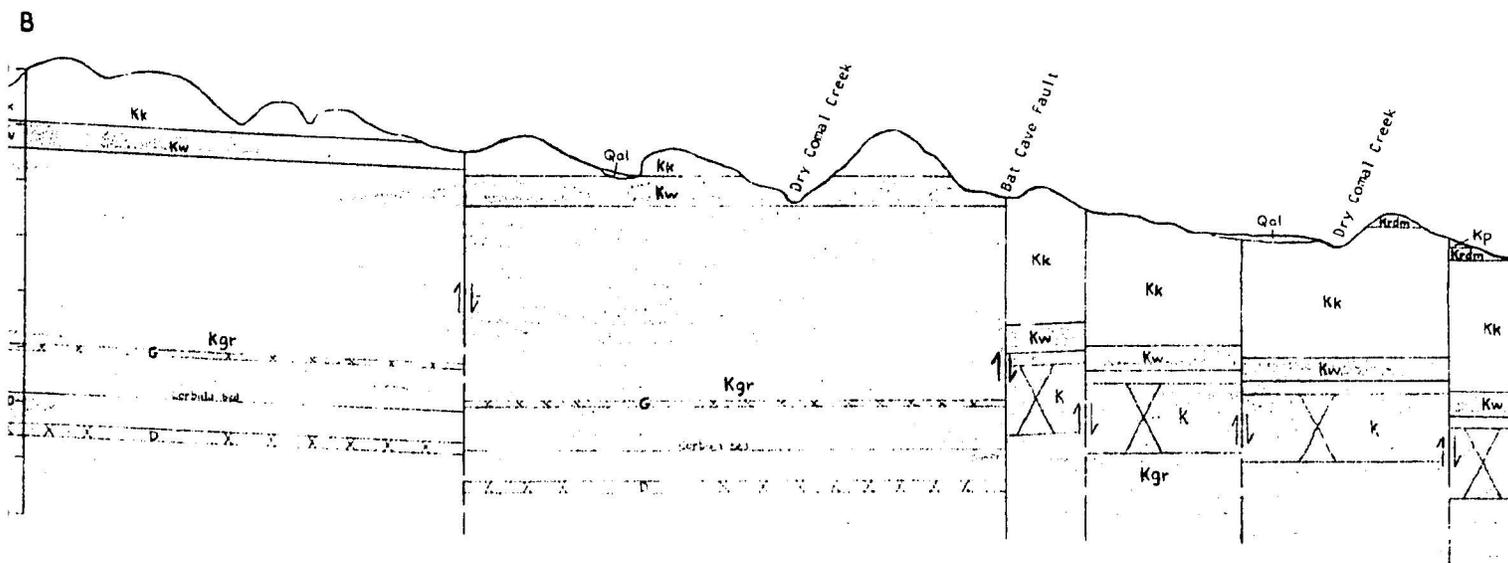
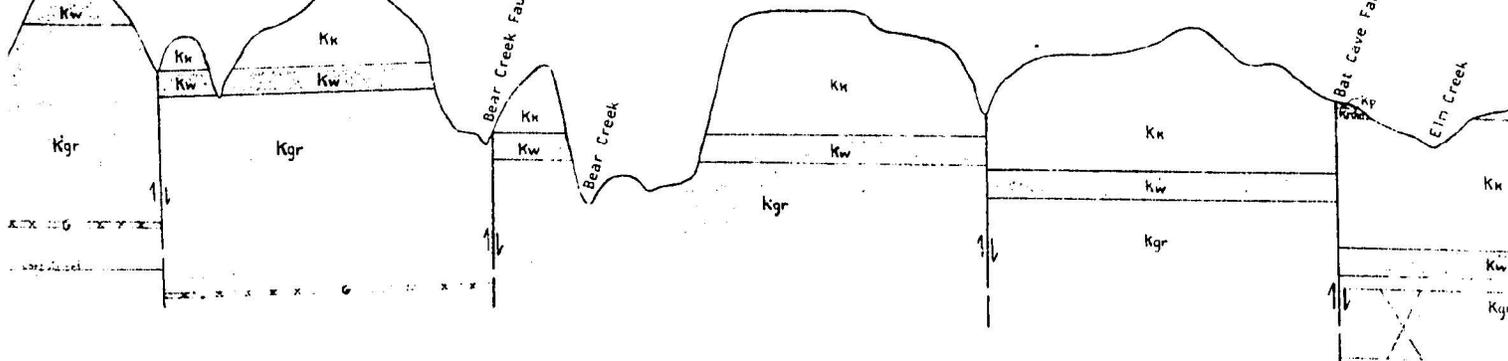
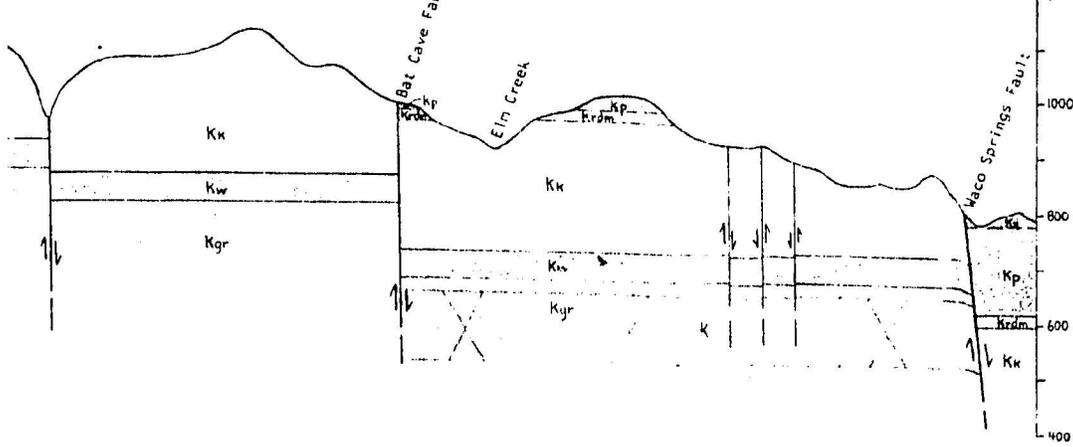


PLATE 5 CROSS SECTIONS FOR PLATES 1,2,3,4

by Patrick L. Abbott 1973

0 1000
Hc



Quaternary
Alluvium + coll.

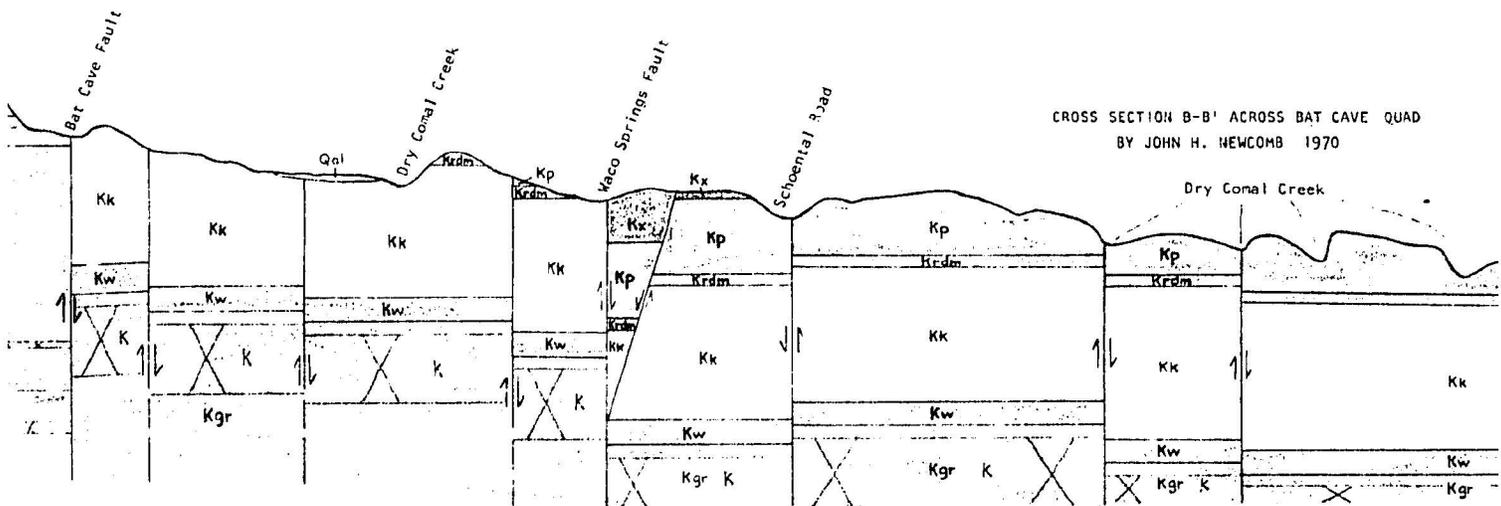
Taylor Clayston

Austin Chalk
Eagle Ford Fm.
Del Rio Claysto
Georgetown Fm

Cretaceous
Edwards Group
Person Fm
Regional De
Kainer Fm.

Walnut Fm.

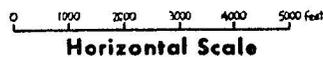
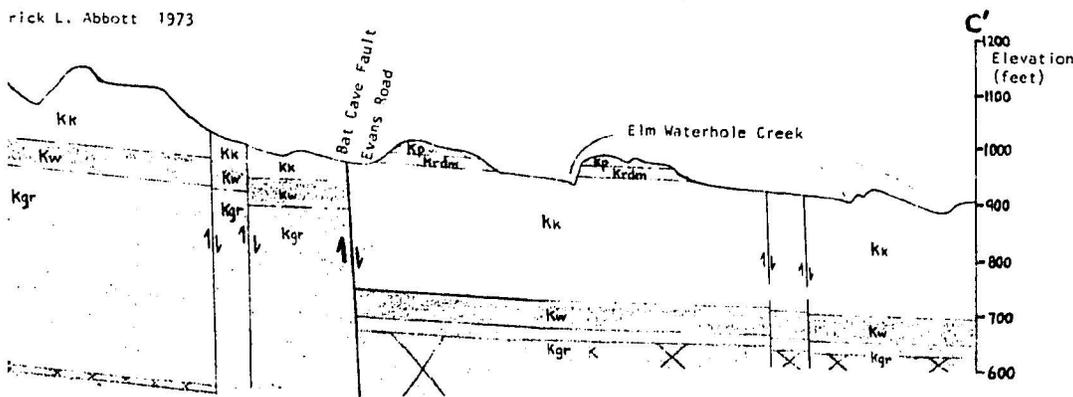
Glen Rose Fm.
Likely aquife
within the C

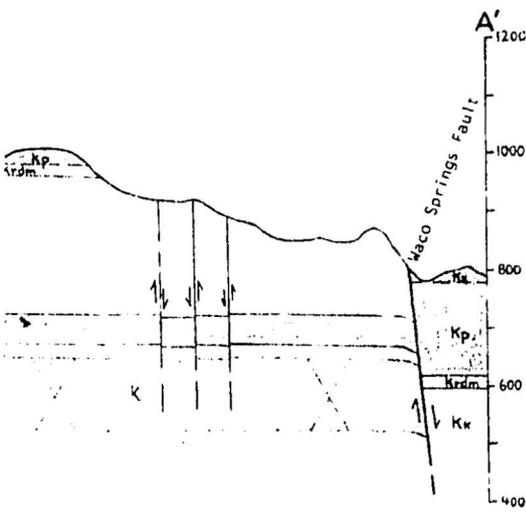


CROSS SECTION B-B' ACROSS BAT CAVE QUAD
BY JOHN H. HEWCOMB 1970

N C-C' ACROSS BULVEPDE QUAD

rick L. Abbott 1973





Quaternary

Alluvium + colluvium Qal

Taylor Claystone Kt

Austin Chalk
Eagle Ford Fm.
Del Rio Claystone
Georgetown Fm. Kx

Cretaceous
Edwards Group

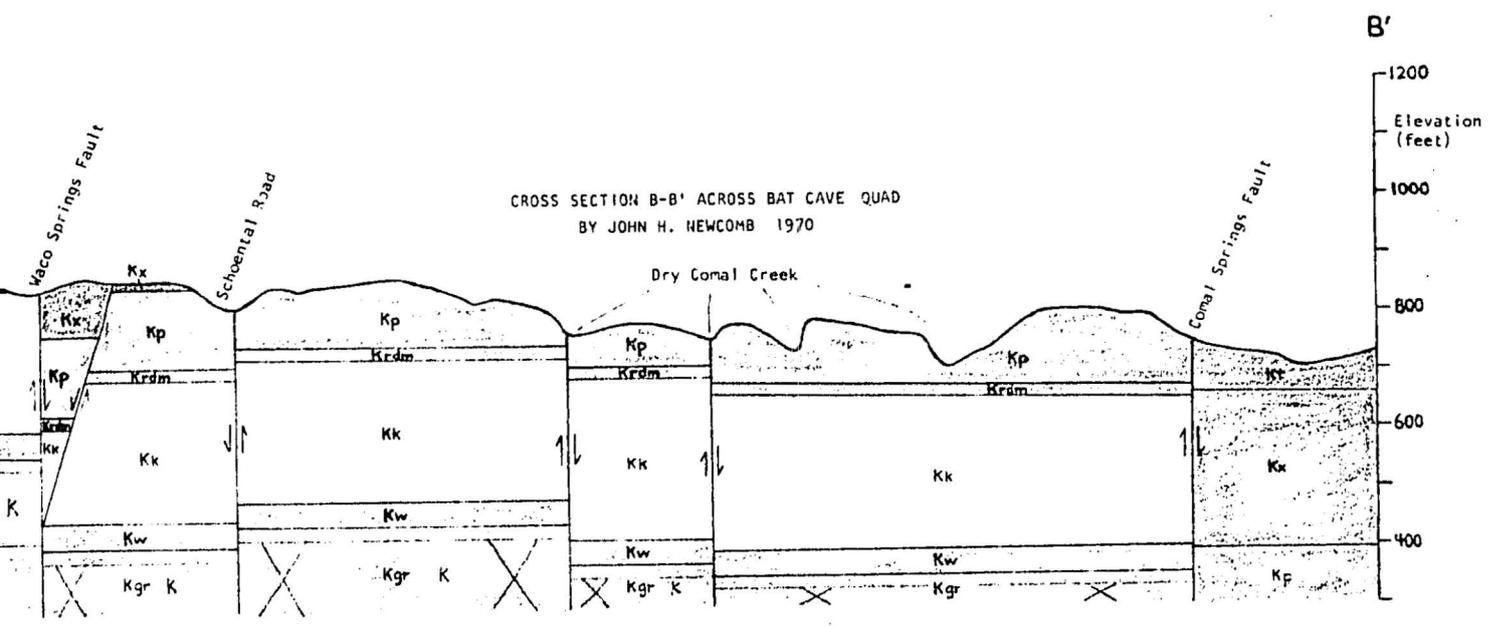
Person Fm Kp

Regional Dense Mbr. Krdm

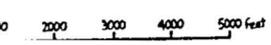
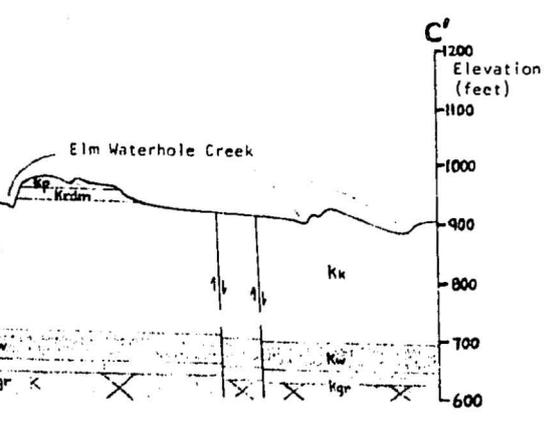
Kainer Fm. Kk

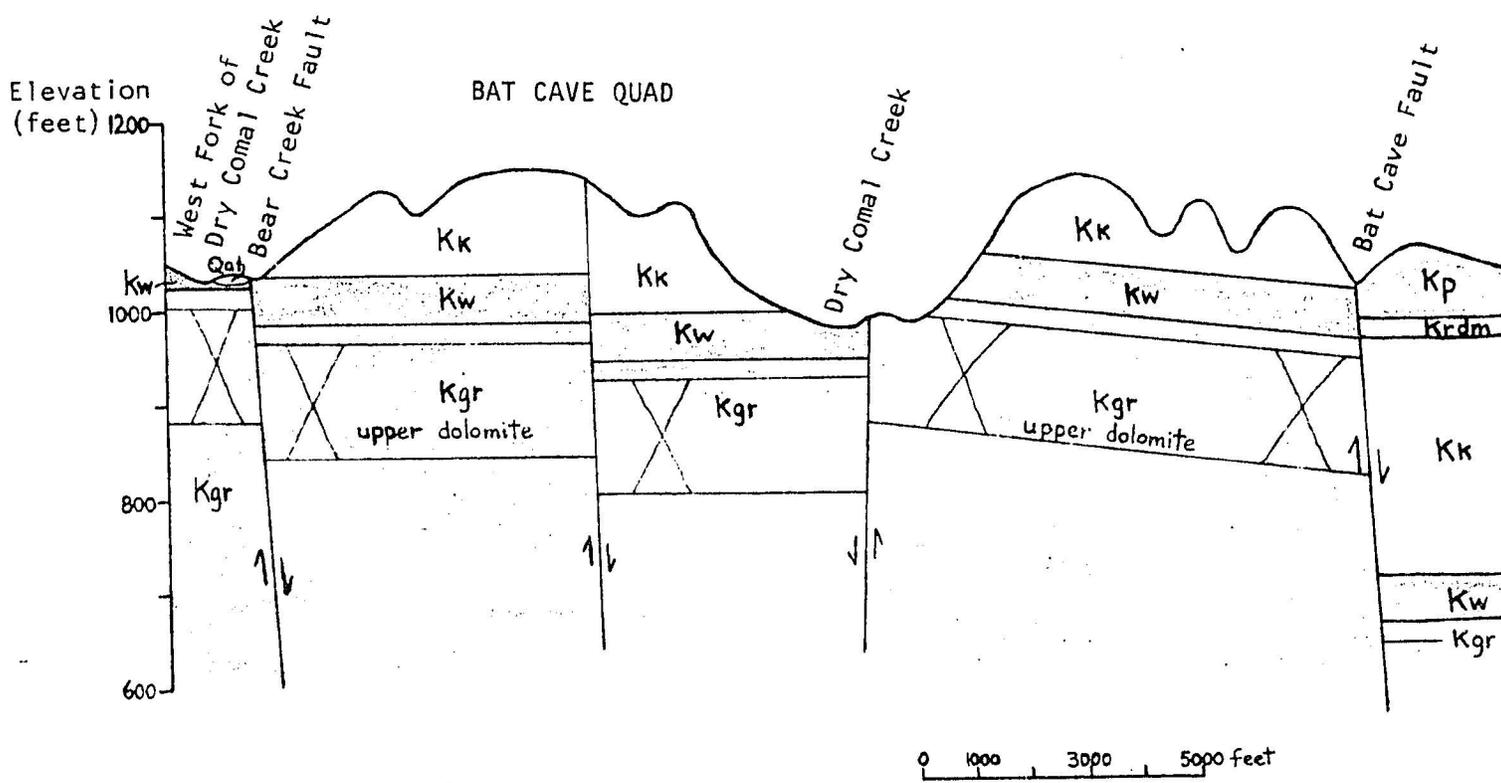
Walnut Fm. Kw

Glen Rose Fm. Kgr upper
Likely aquifer horizons lower
within the Glen Rose Fm.



CROSS SECTION B-B' ACROSS BAT CAVE QUAD
BY JOHN H. HEWCOMB 1970





Vertical exaggeration = 16.7

Plate 11 CR
C

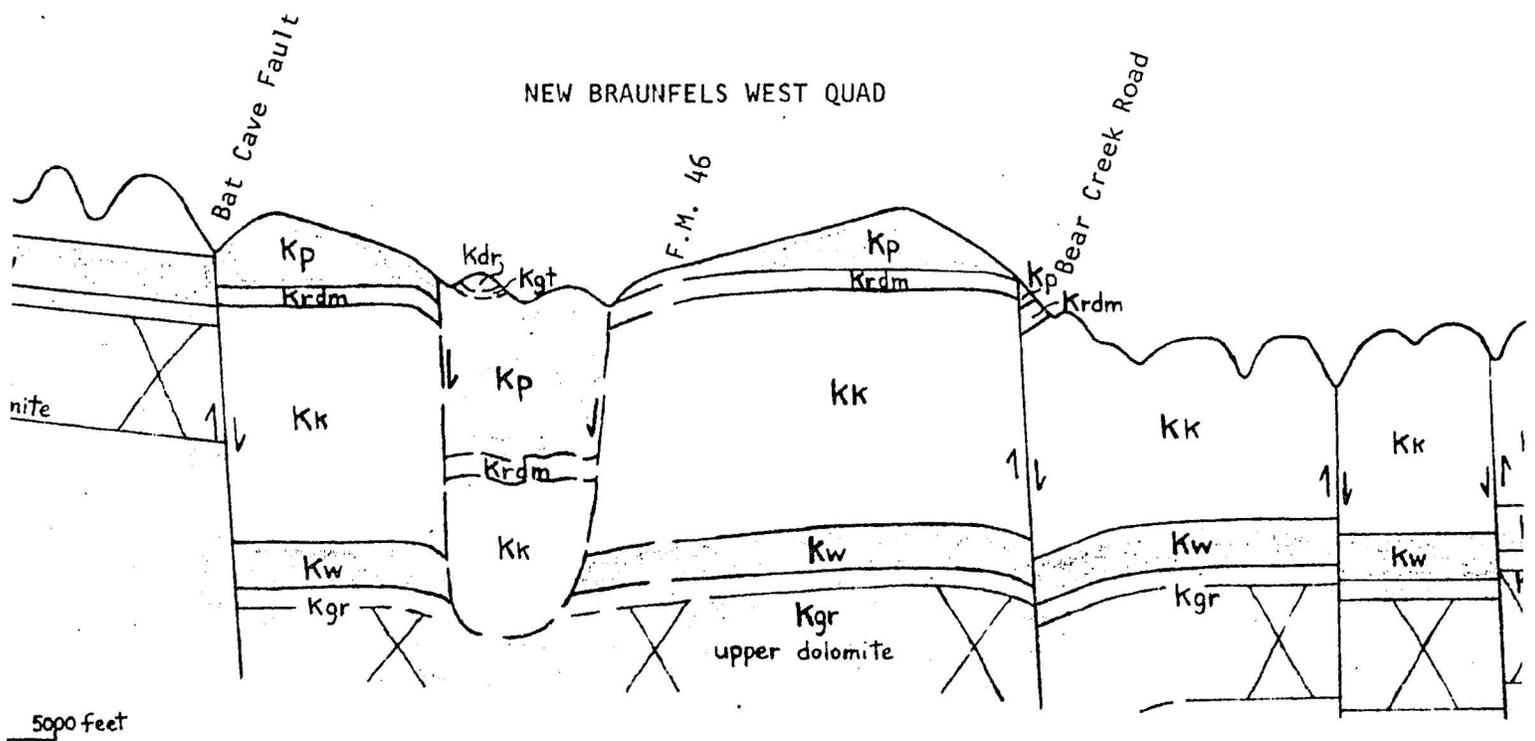


Plate 11 CROSS SECTION FROM INTERSECTION OF BEAR CREEK FAULT AND WEST FORK O COMAL CREEK ON BAT CAVE QUAD TO WACO SPRINGS ON SATTLER QUAD

